

## Barak expected in Amman today

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Israeli opposition Labour Party leader Ehud Barak are expected to hold talks in Amman today on the recent Palestinian-Israeli Wye River peace deal struck Oct. 23, a Palace source said Sunday. Barak, who will be accompanied by Labour members of Knesset Eitan Kibel and Yossi Katz, was in Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Crown Prince Hassan on July 14. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday indefinitely postponed a cabinet debate on ratification of the Wye deal, following Friday's bomb attack in West Jerusalem for which Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility.

# Jordan Times

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## King reacting 'extremely well' to treatment

AMMAN (AFP) — His Majesty King Hussein, who is being treated for cancer of the lymph glands in the United States, is responding extremely well to his chemotherapy, Information Minister Nasser Judeh said Sunday. "The King is responding extremely well to the treatment and the latest results are far beyond expectations," Judeh told reporters. Jordan's ambassador in Washington, Marwan Muasher, meanwhile said the results had "confirmed that the King's body is free from any traces of cancerous cells." "The King will undergo the sixth [and final] round of chemotherapy just as a precaution," Muasher told Sunday's Al Dustour newspaper. The King has completed the fifth round of treatment at the famed Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where he checked in on July 14 suffering a fever and cold sweats.

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## 'Iraq adheres to its stance' banning U.N. inspections, Aziz emphasises

BAGHDAD (AP) — As U.S. officials consulted on a possible military strike against Iraq, a top Iraqi official said Sunday that the government would not back down on its decision to ban U.N. arms inspections.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) that the government was not moved by a U.N. Security Council resolution last week holding it in "flagrant violation" of U.N. edicts.

"Iraq adheres to its stance until the Security Council fulfils its obligation toward Iraq," INA quoted Aziz as saying. This, he said, involved lifting the ban on oil sales "as a start toward the final lifting of the whole embargo."

Iraq's trade minister, Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, also told reporters that Iraq is unconcerned with U.S. threats. "We are not fearing from any military strike... and our country is prepared to face any military aggression," he said.

Aziz's comments came after he met a delegation of Irish and Scottish politicians led by Ireland's former prime minister, Albert Reynolds, who said they opposed the use of force against Iraq.

"I think nothing is solved by military action," said Tam Dalyell, a Scottish member of the British parliament who accompanied Reynolds. "It just creates a bitterness between old friends that I deplore."

Dalyell said Reynolds planned to brief U.S. President Bill Clinton about his findings in Baghdad, adding: "I hope it does some good."

The United States and Britain have threatened possible military action to force Baghdad to allow U.N. weapons inspections to resume.

On Sunday, Clinton was meeting at Maryland's Camp David presidential retreat with Defence Secretary William Cohen, who just completed a tour of the Gulf, and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, who consulted last week with Britain and France. U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait prevent the export of oil, and trade as well.

Iraq last month announced it was halting cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors until the Security Council begins moving to lift the embargo, which has devastated Iraq's economy.

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Former Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds visits an ailing Iraqi child in the Saddam Central Hospital in Baghdad on Sunday while the mother comforts her child. A group of British and Irish parliamentarians met Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Sunday as they started a visit to assess the impact of sweeping U.N. trade sanctions on the country and its people (Reuters photo)

## Saudi Arabia does not rule out use of force to solve Iraqi crisis

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia may back the use of force if diplomacy fails to solve the latest crisis over U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq, Saudi officials and diplomats said Sunday.

The kingdom, a key U.S. ally in the Gulf, is still in favour of a diplomatic solution, they said, but Iraqi intransigence in the face of international condemnation may push it towards a tougher stance.

Unlike the crisis in February over U.N. weapons inspectors' access to Iraqi presidential sites, when Saudi Arabia opposed military strikes, the kingdom could agree to military action this time around, diplomats said.

"A resolution of the crisis is solely the responsibility of the Iraqi government, who must take into consideration the suffering of its people and keep it from

new misfortune," a senior Saudi official told AFP. Asked whether Saudi Arabia would support military strikes against Iraq, the official said: "For the moment, we are not solely discussing the military option but all options."

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said during a visit to Cairo Sunday that the Iraqi leadership of President Saddam Hussein was "fully responsible" for the crisis.

"Iraq must assume its responsibilities and go back on its decision to stop work with UNSCOM," the U.N. Special Commission in charge of disarmament, he said.

Asked if Saudi Arabia approved of a military strike, he said: "No doubt we prefer a diplomatic solution to the crisis. No-one has ill feelings against the Iraqi people, they are

brothers and neighbours."

The United States said "all options" are open in deciding a response to Iraq's decision to break off all cooperation with UNSCOM on Oct. 31, when it demanded the dismissal of the U.N. disarmament chief Richard Butler and a lifting of the eight-year U.N. embargo.

Diplomats in Riyadh said Saudi officials told U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen during his tour of the region last week that they were "in favour of a diplomatic solution" to the crisis.

The diplomats said Saudi Arabia was pressing for political pressure on Iraq so that it respects the accord signed with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in February that ended the stand-off over presidential sites.

But U.S. military sources said the defence secretary

received assurances from Gulf states that they would allow their bases to be used to support an eventual attack on Iraq by the U.S. Fifth Fleet.

"Based on his meetings, Secretary Cohen is confident that the U.S. will have the support it needs to take appropriate action to support the U.N.," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton warned Friday that U.S. forces in the Gulf are capable of launching "swift, powerful strikes" against Iraq if necessary to force it to comply with all U.N. resolutions.

The United States has about 23,000 military personnel in the Gulf. It also has one aircraft carrier, with 10 F-14 Tomcats, 36 F/A-18 fighters and four EA-6B

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## After presenting credentials to Regent: Ambassador stresses need to enhance Jordanian-Qatari ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — Qatar's new Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Fahed Ben Jassem Ben Abdullah Al Thani said Sunday that his country is keen on maintaining and bolstering its relations with Jordan and strengthening bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Speaking to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after presenting his credentials to HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at Raghadan Palace, the ambassador said: "Qatar and Jordan maintain strong brotherly ties which are being developed all the time for the benefit of the people in the two countries."

Expressing his delight over meeting the Regent, the ambassador conveyed to Prince Hassan greetings from Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani and his wishes for the speedy recovery of His Majesty King Hussein and his safe return to Jordan.

Describing Jordanian-Qatari relations as historic, the envoy pledged to work towards advancing bilateral relations that can withstand different circumstances and developments in the region.

Commenting on the Jordanian government's decision to shut down the Amman offices of Al Jazirah satellite television last week, the ambassador said the media in Qatar reflected the official and popular anger at the T.V. station's handling of a recent talk show hosted by anchorman Faisal Qassem.

During last Tuesday's programme Qassem and a programme guest, Mohamad Khalifeh, accused Jordan of conspiring with Israel since its foundation in 1948 against the Arab Nation and claimed that the Jordan Armed Forces

had surrendered Palestinian land to the Israelis.

The envoy said the Qatari people's anger reflected the pride they hold for their country's strong ties with Jordan.

Qatari newspapers, mainly Al Watan and Al Raya dailies, condemned Qassem's programme as a hostile campaign directed at Jordan and its leadership.

The ambassador said Qatar cannot tolerate any attempt aimed at tampering with the strong and brotherly relations with Jordan.

In addition to Sheikh Fahed Ben Jassem, two other newly appointed ambassadors to Jordan, Amin Amsa of Bangladesh and Ian William Russell of Australia, presented their credentials to the Regent during separate ceremonies held at Raghadan Palace.

## Guerrillas attack Israeli-allied militia

RASHAYA (AP) — Guerrillas fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at Israeli-backed militia men and artillery retaliation, security officials said.

There was no immediate word on casualties from the early morning fighting in the eastern sector of the Israeli-occupied buffer zone in south Lebanon, the officials said.

Guerrillas attacked barracks of the South Lebanon Army militia at Kawka inside the occupied enclave, 7 kilometers southwest of the border town of Rashaya. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack.

Israeli helicopter gunships scrambled to action as the guerrillas were withdrawing from the area under a barrage of artillery and tank fire from Israeli and militia positions, according to the officials, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

At least 150 shells blasted the area, the officials added.

## Mubarak: Israeli government is 'unpredictable'

BONN (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak described the Israeli government as "unpredictable" because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "says one thing and does another," Mubarak said in an interview to be published in German daily Die Welt on Monday.

"We are trying to build bridges, but with this Israeli government we see no prospects," Mubarak said of Egypt's role in the Middle East peace process.

The Egyptian leader said Netanyahu "might one day decide to break the peace treaty with Egypt."

He also reiterated his support for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"What more can he do? Arafat has nothing more to give. If we are going to take the latest Israeli claims seriously, Arafat should

imprison his entire people," Mubarak said, referring to Israel's repeated demands for Arafat to take a tougher stance on anti-Israeli extremists.

The Egyptian president added that no country is able to prevent extremists from carrying out the suicide attacks often used in the region.

Under the Wye Plantation agreement signed between Palestinians and Israelis at the White House on Oct. 23, Israel is to hand over another 13 per cent of the West Bank to Palestinian rule in exchange for a Palestinian crackdown on anti-Israeli extremists.

Mubarak stressed that rapid implementation of the accord would help Arafat, land that any delay would cost the Palestinian leader support.

## Cyprus says Israeli spy suspects were not working for Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The two Israelis arrested in Cyprus on suspicion of spying were not working for Israel, the Cypriot government said Sunday.

"From the investigations to date, nothing has transpired to link this issue with the government of Israel," the Cypriot Justice Ministry said Sunday.

There were no other details. A Cypriot police source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Israelis were suspected of spying on behalf of Turkey, which invaded and occupied the northern third of Cyprus in 1974.

Cypriot police said the two men would be brought before a remand hearing Nov. 16.

The two Israelis were arrested Saturday in a small community of Ziyi near the southern coastal resort of Larnaca. Cypriot police said they found cameras, wireless instruments, tapes of conversations between

police, radio scanners and maps in the apartment the two were renting.

The two Israelis were visited Saturday and Sunday by Israeli consulate officials.

Turkey has significantly increased military cooperation with Israel in the past two years. Israeli military analyst Ron Ben Yishai, writing in the Yediot Achronoth newspaper, suggested the arrests were meant as a warning to Israel not to cooperate with Turkey in any spy operation.

Some Israeli press reports speculated about whether the pair's presence had anything to do with Cyprus' recent purchase of S-300 anti-aircraft missiles from Russia.

Cyprus fears Israel is training Turkish pilots on how to bomb the missile batteries once they are installed, Cypriot President

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## Israel says it will go ahead with Abu Ghneim settlement Netanyahu government avoids setting date for approving deal

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel said Sunday it will go ahead with plans to build a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem, but again avoided fixing a date for cabinet approval of the Wye River accord.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was due Sunday to convene a meeting of his cabinet which has yet to approve the land-for-security agreement, postponed the meeting indefinitely — a move likely to delay parliamentary debate on the accord, which was scheduled to begin Wednesday.

The cabinet broke off debate on the agreement Friday after a bomb attack by Palestinian militants in a

Jerusalem market left 24 Israelis wounded and killed both of the bombers.

Israel announced just after the attack that it would press ahead with construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim in occupied Arab east Jerusalem, and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush reiterated Sunday that building plans were underway.

"The decision to press ahead with inviting bids will be taken in the next few days," Porush told Israeli radio.

The ultra-orthodox minister has been one of the strongest voices in government urging Israel to move forward with the Har Homa project, which has divided members of Netanyahu's cabinet in addition to spark-

ing intense anger among Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon urged the cabinet to go ahead with the plan but was vetoed by Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who warned of an explosion of Palestinian violence if construction begins, the Haaretz newspaper reported Sunday.

And while one Netanyahu spokesman said Friday that Israel would begin inviting construction tenders immediately, a second spokesman denied the statement later in the day.

Israeli public radio reported after the conflicting statements that the government had already decided to begin soliciting the tenders, but that word of the decision was

to have been kept secret until the cabinet approved the Wye River agreement.

Still later Friday, the Israeli cabinet issued an ambiguous statement claiming that it would "work to strengthen Jerusalem, the capital of Israel."

Jabal Abu Ghneim sits in east Jerusalem, which Israel considers part of its "eternal capital" but where Palestinians want to establish the capital of a future Palestinian state.

The March 1997 groundbreaking ceremony at the site was the trigger for a 19-month deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian talks that ended with the signing of the Wye River agreement.

An aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Nabil

Abu Rudeina, warned Friday that any construction at the site would be a "dangerous violation of the Wye agreement and will have dangerous consequences."

But Haaretz said Netanyahu remains committed to calling for construction bids at the settlement "in the near future."

Meanwhile Israeli troops arrested eight Palestinians in connection with Friday's Jerusalem bombing, military sources said.

The eight were suspected of having links to the two bombers, both of whom were members of the militant Palestinian group Islamic Jihad.

Israeli radio reported that 20 Islamic Jihad militants had been rounded up by

Palestinian security officials, who are also still holding some 200 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, detained after last month's suicide bombing that killed an Israeli soldier.

Palestinian police released three Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip Sunday, and Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Meddein told Israeli television that all suspects who were determined to be linked to anti-Israeli attacks would be freed.

The Wye River agreement calls for the Palestinians to enact tougher measures against anti-Israeli violence in exchange for Israel withdrawing from a further 13 per cent of the West Bank.









REGENT RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF NEW ENVOYS: Two new envoys to Jordan, Australian Ambassador Ian William Russel (L) and Bangladeshi Ambassador Amin Amsa, present their credentials to the Regent during separate ceremonies held Sunday at Raghadan Palace (Photos by Boghos)



## Minister, Petra staff sign letter to King 'King expected to address Parliament upon return'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Nasser Judeh and staff of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sunday signed a message of loyalty to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of his birthday.

The document, prepared by the Jordan Society for International Culture and Peace, was signed by hundreds of thousands of citizens across the Kingdom.

who expressed their gratitude and wished the King a speedy recovery and safe return.

The 250-metre-long by 70-centimetre-wide letter is expected to be registered in Guinness Book of Records as the longest of its kind in the world.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet on Saturday approved the programme of the main activities of celebrations

marking the King's birthday, which falls on Nov. 14. The major activities in Amman are scheduled to be held next Saturday at Sports City.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will open the ceremony, which will include an Armed Forces' military display as well as air and folkloric shows. More than 25,000 citizens are expected to attend the celebration.

Similar activities will be held in all governorates.

Local newspapers reported that some officials said King Hussein, currently being treated at the Mayo Clinic in the U.S., is expected to return at the end of this month.

According to the sources, the King is expected to address Parliament in his Speech from the Throne on Nov. 30.

## Economic, political upheavals strain social development capacity — Princess Basma

By Hind-Lara Mango

AMMAN — Economic and political upheavals around the world have put a strain on the structures of social development, a situation which has led to increasing poverty and unemployment, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Sunday.

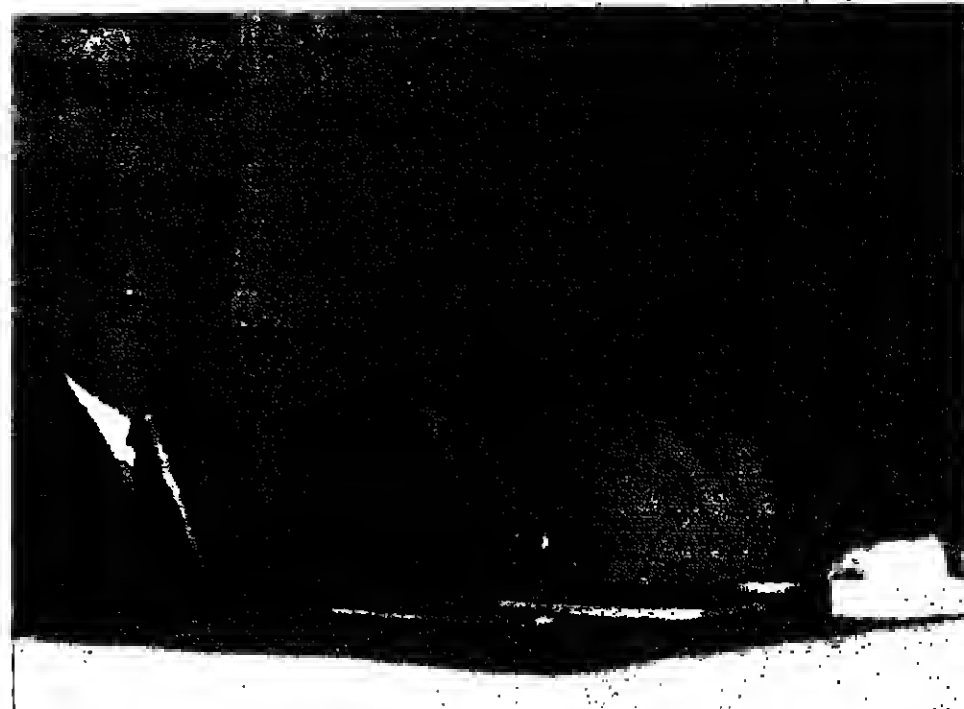
In remarks at the opening session of a regional seminar entitled "Perspective on Social Development: Three Years after the World Summit for Social Development," Princess Basma noted that economic growth has not necessarily translated into human development.

Princess Basma said examples have confirmed that only limited sectors of high-growth rate countries enjoy the benefits of prosperity. This, she added, has created a disparity between growth and development, leading to higher rates of poverty and unemployment.

The Princess called for a balance based on solidarity and social justice to guarantee equal opportunities for both men and women. She also emphasised the essential role of NGOs in social development.

Many NGOs in the Arab World have become integral parts of national efforts to work towards equality and social justice, improve the status of women and strengthen civil society, said Shadia Nusseir, acting executive director of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF).

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner added that the NGO community, government agencies, and international aid agencies



HRH Princess Basma, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mamsar and UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner at the seminar yesterday (Petra photo)

must work together if programmes targeting poverty were to succeed.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mamsar stressed that social development, particularly the eradication of poverty, requires the combined efforts of NGOs, the government, and the private sector.

"We want the private sector as a serious partner... to date, the role of this sector in social development has not been [as effective] as it should. However, steps are being taken now to integrate the private sector into social development and poverty alleviation," Mamsar said.

The seminar is one in a series organised by the International Council on Social Welfare prior to a

meeting of the United Nations General Assembly at the turn of the millennium to review the implementation of agreements reached at the 1995 Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development.

The aim of this two-day seminar is to review and promote the implementation of agreements concerning the Arab and Islamic World that were made at the summit.

"We think that it is important for less powerful countries to have their voices heard and their problems understood through seminars such as this, where views are expressed collectively," said the president of the International Council on Social Welfare, Julian Disney.

Disney told the Jordan Times that regional fora such as this seminar encourage NGOs and governments to work together more at the regional level.

Plenary sessions will focus on the 1995 summit's main themes of poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion.

"Practical strategies for the implementation and promotion of the summit's agreements will be deliberated at workshops following the sessions," Munif Abu Rish, QAF director of social development, told the Jordan Times.

At the summit, delegates from 186 countries agreed on a programme of action which predominantly committed states to the eradication of poverty through social adjustment, programmes, employment, and social integration.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Arar laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of former Deputy Prime Minister Suleiman Arar, who died Saturday in Cairo at the age of 64, was laid to rest Sunday at Sahab Islamic Cemetery. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delegated the military advisor to His Majesty King Hussein, Lieutenant General Hameid Fayez, to attend the funeral and offer condolences to the Arar family. Also attending the funeral were Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, speakers and members of the Senate and the Lower House, Cabinet members and other prominent civil and military personnel.

#### Official questioned over alleged violations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman prosecutor is questioning the director general of the National Aid Fund over alleged financial and administrative violations. Minister of Justice Jawdat Shoul said Sunday, Adel Shameileh was referred to the Court of First Instance by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair Mamsar on Saturday. "The minister used his authority to refer Shameileh to court and submitted documents that prove violations were committed," Shoul told the Jordan Times. He said "the investigation procedures will remain closed to the public until the prosecutor concludes his inquiry." Shoul added that the Council of Ministers, in its Saturday session, decided to suspend Shameileh from his work until the investigation is completed.

#### Murdered JVA official laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Hani Mulki on Sunday attended the funeral of Mohammad Habashneh, the assistant to the secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, who was shot dead in his office in the Jordan Valley on Saturday. Mulki, who deputised for Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh at the funeral in Habashneh's hometown of Karak, condemned the killing, saying that justice will take its course. Habashneh was reportedly sitting in his office in Deir Alla when Mohammad Abed, a former JVA employee, walked in the office, drew a gun and shot him several times. He then turned himself in to the police. The attacker had reportedly been sacked several months earlier and had tried in vain to return to work.

#### Qadi meets with envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Nayef Qadi on Sunday received Yemeni Ambassador to Jordan Hassan Lawzi for talks on means of enhancing bilateral relations in various fields. Qadi also met with Sudanese Ambassador to Jordan Sayeed Jaleeluddin Amin to review bilateral ties.

#### Workshop on WTO opens Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Institute of Diplomacy on Tuesday will host a workshop on the World Trade Organisation. Representatives from the private sector in addition to a number of government officials will take part in the workshop.

## Traffic study advises new legislation, training institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — An extensive study on traffic problems in Jordan prepared by the Public Security Department has recommended the formulation of a new traffic law and new programmes on road safety as well as the establishment of a special training institute for traffic personnel.

The study noted that in 1997 alone, 577 people were killed in road accidents, compared to 9,652 killed and 211,827 injured between 1975 and 1997.

The general outline of the study was published yesterday after it was reviewed by the Cabinet at a regular session attended by HRH Prince Faisal. During the meeting, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh said serious action was urgently needed to deal with the traffic problem due to the high number of people, mostly children, killed or injured in road accidents.

The study, which included statistics on the number of people involved in accidents as well as their toll on society, the economy and the environment, concluded that the increase in the number of vehicles in Jordan over the past two decades contributed to the increase in accidents and victims.

According to the study, by the end of 1997 there were 599 taxi offices in Jordan operating 10,512

taxis, 65 per cent of which served the Amman area. In addition, 394 hotel cabs operated from 27 offices and 3,937 rental cars were affiliated with 311 offices.

The study said that major problems facing the transport sector in Jordan include the lack of bus stops, low numbers of modern buses and fixed schedules.

A study conducted last September by the PSD on road accidents showed that advanced nations lose one citizen in road accidents for every 10,000 vehicles, while Jordan loses 16 citizens annually for a similar number of vehicles.

The study published Sunday said a low level of coordination among departments concerned with public transport, the failure of present legislation to reduce the number of traffic accidents and the lack of a single authority to issue regulations and monitor their implementation has exacerbated the situation.

It recommended that a unified authority be placed in charge of road safety and modern legislation be introduced to deal with traffic problems.

The study noted that the PSD has prepared a set of recommendations in this respect in cooperation with a Swedish team and has sent it to the Prime Ministry for approval.



RED Crescent PRESIDENT MEETS WITH DELEGATION: The president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, Mohammad Hadid, meets Sunday with a delegation representing a humanitarian aid club led by Dalal Abdullah. Hadid briefed the delegation on the establishment of the society 50 years ago and its achievements. The delegation president presented a briefing on the club's establishment in 1996 and its objectives in extending assistance to orphans, the elderly and the handicapped. The delegation members toured the various sections of the society (Photo courtesy of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society)

## 'Iraq adheres to its stance' banning U.N. inspections — Aziz

(Continued from page 1)

The Security Council has said the embargo won't be lifted until U.N. inspectors certify that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction, as required by U.N. resolutions that ended the 1991 Gulf war over the Kuwait occupation.

Earlier Sunday, Saleh said a possible American military strike would be no harder on the country than the sanctions. "They will not kill in a military strike more than they are killing with sanctions every day," Saleh told reporters during an appearance at a Baghdad trade fair.

The government has blamed the sanctions for shortages of food and medicine as well as the deterioration of its water, sewage and electricity systems. These problems, it says, has taken the lives of 1.5 million Iraqis over the past eight years, many of them children. "We are losing 4,500 chil-

dren per month—that means nearly 60,000 per year," Saleh said. "I don't think a military strike would kill 60,000 children as sanctions are killing now."

Iraq's decision to halt inspections is aimed at the U.N. Special Commission, which is charged with eliminating Iraq's biological and chemical weapons as well as long-range missiles. Iraq has demanded that UNSCOM be restructured to include fewer American and British experts and that its chairman, Australian Richard Butler, be replaced. Iraq has long accused Butler of working on behalf of the United States to prolong

the sanctions as a way to undermine President Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi ban exempts monitors from the Vienna-headquartered International Atomic Energy Agency. On Sunday, two nuclear monitoring teams went into the field, U.N. officials said.

### What's Going On

#### FILMS

"Thérèse" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.  
"The English Patient" at the Books @ Café, Jabal Amman, First Circle on Tuesday Nov. 9 at 8:30 p.m. (Tel. 4650457)

#### LECTURE

"Astrology" (in Arabic) by Imad Mujahed at the Friends of Archaeology Centre on Tuesday Nov. 10 at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 5930682). (The lecture discusses the moon's impact on our everyday life and other relevant issues).

#### EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Aziz at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 28.  
A three-dimensional exhibition on canvas by Susanna Caldwell, Darleen Karpowicz, and Rawabi Abu Ghazaleh Silawi at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre (Artisana), Jabal Amman, off the second circle, until Nov. 10 (Telefax 4647858).  
Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem," an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfar Al Sa'idi, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nusseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2).

## S. Arabia does not rule out use of force to solve crisis

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Prowler electronic warfare planes. In addition, Pentagon officials say that they have 170 U.S. combat aircraft in the Gulf, about 250 sea-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles.

One diplomat said the toughening of the Saudi position could be explained by the fact that Gulf states have "become tired of the repeated crises pro-

voked by the Iraqi regime." Saudi officials in private complain that every time Iraq sees Arab opinion move in its favour, Baghdad takes advantage of it to provoke another crisis. "Saddam Hussein, whether he does it knowingly or not, acts against the interests of the Arabs in general and of Iraq in particular," Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz said Saturday.

## Cyprus says Israeli spy suspects were not working for Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Glafcos Clerides reaffirmed Saturday that his government would go ahead and deploy the anti-aircraft missiles.

Rafi Eitan, a former Mossad operator, speculated that the two suspects might have been hired by a private Turkish outfit. Israel TV said the two

men arrived three weeks ago during a military training exercise in the area.

Relations between Cyprus and Israel have chilled in recent months as Israel conducted joint military manoeuvres with Turkey as part of their 1996 defence pact. Israel has repeatedly insisted that its ties with Turkey are not directed against any other

countries in the region.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman had almost succeeded in patching up relations with Cyprus with a three-day visit to the island last week.

Cypriot Ambassador to Israel Euripedes Evriades told Israel's Channel Two TV that he hoped the incident would not harm relations between the two

countries.

"We want to look at this through the prism of the good relations we have with Israel because... we treasure these relations," Evriades said.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Cyprus was widely used as a regional listening post by intelligence agents from various regional powers.



## Death for killers of Bangladesh's Mujib

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladesh court Sunday sentenced 15 former army officers to death by firing squad for killing the country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a 1975 coup, court officials said.

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul of the Dhaka District and Session Judges' Court announced the long-awaited verdict in a trial that started in July 1997. Four accused were acquitted.

"They deserve no mercy," the judge said while reading out his 171-page judgement to a packed court.

"Justice has prevailed at long last," said Zillur Rahman, general secretary of Awami League, which was founded by Mujib and now led by his daughter Sheikh Hasina.

Only five of the accused were in court. The others, still at large, were tried in absentia.

It was the first time in the nation's history that leaders of a military coup were tried in a civilian court.

"They have not only shot and killed the then president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his

family but have shown arrogance after the killings. They should be executed publicly," Rasul said.

Khan Saifur Rahman, the lawyer of Faruq Rahman, one of those sentenced, told reporters he would appeal against the judgement in a higher court.

"A common court cannot order public execution by a firing squad," he said.

Rahman declined to comment. But another convict, Mohiuddin Ahmad, said: "It's all up to the will of Allah. I am innocent and I am going to appeal." Rasul said four other accused including former information minister Taheruddin Thakur had been acquitted of their charges.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, a leader of main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) headed by former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, said: "The first ever public execution

by a firing squad may trigger a debate in the country. It may be an attempt by the government to divert attention from more pressing issues." Thousands of Mujib followers marched to Mujib's house in the city's

Dhanmandi area and offered flowers at his portrait.

A tearful Hasina also went to her father's house and confined herself for some time in a room where she lived as a child, reporters at the scene said.

Later Hasina said in a statement: "The trial of the killers of the father of the nation in a civil court has proved that the judiciary of the country enjoys full freedom."

"The outcome of the trial is the victory of the people of Bangladesh who have proved once again that they never accept any injustice and wrong-doing," Mujib's Awami League regained power in the June 1996 elections by defeating the BNP.

Hasina's government has accused the BNP of trying to protect the killers of Mujib.

The BNP and its allies, who have branded Hasina's government as "undemocratic and repressive", have called for a 48-hour nationwide strike starting Monday in their latest attempt to shake Hasina's rule.



Pro-independence FLNKS leader Rock Wanytan casts his ballot near Noumea, New Caledonia. New Caledonians have voted by a wide margin in a referendum to put their nickel-rich Pacific island on the road to autonomy from France (Reuters photo)

## New Caledonia approves autonomy from France

NOUMEA (R) — New Caledonians have voted by a wide margin to put their nickel-rich Pacific island on the road to autonomy from France, officials in the capital Noumea and in the French capital Paris announced Sunday.

"I am delighted that the population of New Caledonia has chosen the path of consensus and responsibility in preparing for its future," French President Jacques Chirac said in a statement issued by his Elysée presidential palace.

Welcoming approval of the referendum question, the approval vote was 71.9 per cent versus 28.1 per cent opposed, with more than 74 per cent of the territory's 106,000 registered voters participating.

At stake for voters was approval of an agreement reached last year which would allow the territory to assume gradually increasing freedom over the next 15 years.

While leaving open the question of the territory's final status, it provides for a second referendum to be held on self-determination at the end of the 15-year period.

The agreement was reached in May between France, New Caledonia's FLNKS separatist movement and the island's anti-independence RPCR political party.

French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, who had urged approval, said in a statement that Sunday's vote would enable New Caledonians "a freer exercise of their responsibilities to better affirm their identity, develop and diversify their economy."

New Caledonia lies about 1,900 km east of Australia and is the world's third largest producer of nickel.

It has about 197,000 residents. The first Western visitor to New Caledonia was actually an Englishman, James Colnett, in 1774. It ended up in French hands in 1853 after the massacre of 12 French sailors by local inhabitants prompted Tahiti-based Rear Admiral Febvrier-Despointes to sail there and claim it for Paris.

It is part of a dwindling French colonial empire that once spanned much of the world.

France's overseas territories now include just a handful of island groups around the globe including, in addition to New Caledonia, the Wallis and

Futuna and French Polynesia island groups in the South Pacific, the islands of Mayotte and St. Pierre-et-Miquelon off the eastern coast of Canada and a group of Antarctic islands.

Talks on New Caledonia's future began in 1988, following years of clashes with separatists, including the "Ouvéa cave massacre" in which 19 Kanaks and two French soldiers were killed.

Kanaks, or native Melanesians, make up 45 per cent of the island population and generally back the separatist FLNKS, while Caldoches, descendants of European settlers who back the RPCR, constitute 35 per cent.

The rest of the population consists primarily of people of Polynesian, Chinese and Vietnamese origin who generally side with the Europeans.

The island is currently going through tough times with nickel prices tumbling due to competition from Russia, rising local mining costs and the Asian economic crisis, which has damped demand from Japan, the principal buyer of New Caledonian nickel.

Thayer is the first recipient of the \$20,000 prize, awarded by the ICIJ. The ICIJ is part of the Washington-based Centre for Public Integrity, a nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative research organisation.

"I've won a number of awards this year, but this was really special to be here with colleagues who have risked their lives all over the world," said Thayer. "It's really

bubbling."

Thayer later interviewed Pol Pot — deposed as head of the movement and placed under house arrest — in a Khmer Rouge jungle stronghold. Video of the interview provided the first images in decades of the ailing, grey-haired Pol Pot, who died in April at 73.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### British press hunts royal tell-tale

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's press was asking who told tales Sunday in the wake of a row over whether Prince Charles said he would be pleased to see his mother, Queen Elizabeth, abdicate so he could become king. The prince's deputy private secretary, Mark Bolland, was at the centre of the row after he was accused of telling a television documentary team that Charles would be "privately delighted" if the queen stepped down, according to the Sunday Telegraph. Close friends of Bolland have strongly denied the charge, the newspaper said. "The Queen and Charles at war," said the tabloid Sunday People, while its rival Express Sunday said: "The Queen and Charles kiss and make up." The People published photographs of two men and two women, friends or advisers to the prince, who it said were chief "suspects" in the leak inquiry. "If the Prince really wants to improve his public image, he should stop blaming everybody else for his problems and look at where those problems are coming from. He must bring his troublesome courtiers under control," said the weekly. The allegations were made in a London Weekend Television documentary to be broadcast later Sunday to mark Charles' 50th birthday next Saturday. In a strongly-worded statement, Charles Friday dismissed the claims as "outrageous and hurtful" and "ludicrous".

### Venezuelans cast ballots in key pre-presidential vote

CARACAS (AFP) — Venezuelans went to the polls in key legislative and state elections Sunday, in a vote seen as decisive for forming a coalition ahead of a crucial presidential contest in December. Polls opened here for legislative and regional elections at 6 a.m. (1000 GMT), and were to remain open until 8 p.m. (1600 GMT). Some 11 million voters were eligible to elect 48 senators and 189 deputies to congress, as well as 23 state governors and hundreds of state legislators. The vote was to determine the balance of power among political parties vying to influence the highly charged presidential election set for Dec. 6. The leading presidential candidate for the December election is Hugo Chavez, a former lieutenant colonel who led a bloody military coup attempt in 1992. Results of the Sunday vote could define an "anti-Chavez" alliance among the remaining presidential candidates, analysts said. Also Sunday, for the first time a new law required political parties to ensure that 30 per cent of the candidates they field were women. It would also be the first time voting is administered by a reformed National Elections Council and a new, automated balloting system touted as "anti-fraud" by its promoters. Voters were also to elect 12 members of the regional Latin American parliament and five members of the Andean parliament. More than 70,000 soldiers had fanned out around the country to make sure the polling stations were safe, officials reported.

### Pinochet's belief in Britain 'shaken'

LONDON (UPI) — Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet says his arrest has shaken his belief in Britain. In a statement issued to several British news organisations, Pinochet said he would fight the extradition request sought by Spain or charges of genocide, terrorism and torture committed during his reign in Chile. He said: "A show trial in Spain, a foreign land, is not justice. It is certainly not British justice. My fellow citizens have come to terms with our nation's past. They are my true judges." Pinochet was arrested Oct. 16 after a Spanish judge requested his extradition to Spain to stand trial for human rights abuses committed in Chile during rule. The 82-year-old was in Britain for back surgery and is being held under guard at a private clinic in north London where he is recovering. Britain's House of Lords is set to resume hearing evidence Monday on an appeal of a British High Court ruling that his arrest was illegal because Pinochet has sovereign immunity as a former head of state. In Pinochet's statement, the general gave a lengthy account of Chile's recent history and said Spain was ignoring its own past by requesting his extradition. He said: "Spain left behind the Franco years with no recriminations. That is because the Spanish people were determined to reconcile themselves with their past, despite the ravages of the civil war. Why do they now wish to force us to do differently?" Although Pinochet said "I wish things could have been different", in the 1973 coup in which he took power, he said: "I am at peace with myself, and with the Chilean people, about what happened. I am clear in my mind that the return to Chile of true democracy... could not have been achieved without the removal of the Marxist government."

### Spain's 'Open Your Eyes' wins Tokyo film fest grand prix

TOKYO (AFP) — "Open Your Eyes," a Spanish movie directed by Alejandro Amenabar, won the grand prize at the 11th Tokyo International Film Festival here Sunday. The movie — portraying a young man's struggle after his good looks, which helped him lead a charmed life, are destroyed by an accident — was selected from the 17 finalists out of 513 entries from 45 countries. The special jury prize went to "Leaf on a Pillow," an Indonesian film directed by Garin Nugrobo, which depicts a tragedy surrounding homeless children. Britain's Guy Ritchie won best director for "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" in the nine-day film festival, which started as a biennial event in 1985 and has been held annually since 1991. Japan's Maki Miyamoto grabbed the best actress award for her role in "The Geisha House" and Brad Renfro of the United States lifted the best actor award for his role in "Apt Pupil." The best artistic contribution award was shared by two films, "The Red Violin," a Canadian entry directed by Francois Girard, and "Smoke Signals," a U.S. film directed by Chris Eyre. The gold and silver prizes, reserved for films by directors with three or fewer 35-millimetre films to their credit, were awarded to South Korean and Turkish movies. "Spring in my Hometown," directed by Lee Kwang Mo, won the gold prize while the silver prize went to "The Small Town," directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan.

## Italian defence minister urges honour for WWI mutineers

ROME (AFP) — Italian Defence Minister Carlo Scognamiglio said Sunday his country should honour the memory of its World War I soldiers "unjustly" accused of cowardice.

Scognamiglio said Italy should follow France's example and lift the taboo on discussing those who refused to fight in some of the war's bloodiest battles.

"I agree entirely with (French Prime Minister) Lionel Jospin and I believe that we must also decide to tell the truth publicly," he said.

Scognamiglio said hundreds of thousands of men were "butchered" as a result of "devastating strategic errors" under Italy's then commander of military operations General Luigi Cadorna, defeated at Caporetto in 1917.

"How can we not be on the side of those who tried to escape a pointless, stupid

death?" Scognamiglio said. "I think those poor soldiers who were shot by our execution squads were no less heroic than those who died in combat," he said.

Some 200,000 Italian soldiers were condemned for desertion, abandoning their posts, mutiny and indiscipline during the war and 750 were executed, according to the Turin daily La Stampa.

Scognamiglio said the soldiers had been unjustly accused of cowardice and said: "I think we should lift this taboo and restore their honour."

Jospin Thursday broke the longstanding taboo in France by rehabilitating soldiers who refused to fight during a disastrous offensive against the Germans in the final stages of World War I.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 French soldiers mutinied in 1917 over being

sent to the slaughter in the battle of "Chemin des Dames" in eastern France, where around 170,000 French soldiers were lost.

At a ceremony ahead of the 80th anniversary of the World War I armistice on Nov. 11, Jospin rehabilitated the memory of the mutineers, 49 of whom were shot while many others were sentenced to forced labour.

"Some of these soldiers, exhausted by futile offensives over blood-soaked mud... were shot by firing squad as an example. Let them return fully to our national collective memory," he said.

His gesture, however, upset some French right-wingers.

Meanwhile, in Britain 306 soldiers executed for desertion or cowardice during World War I were remembered at a public ceremony Saturday.

## Ban Communists now, says Russian tycoon

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's Communist Party should be banned immediately as it is contributing to the break-up of Russia, billionaire businessman and influential power-broker Boris Berezovsky said Sunday.

A day after the 81st anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution, Berezovsky said the Communists themselves had been responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Union, and were sowing the same kind of division which would lead Russia to disintegrate as well.

"The Communist Party in Russia should be rapidly banned," Berezovsky was quoted as saying in an interview with the Interfax news agency.

He said that just as the Communists had hastened the collapse of the Soviet Union by fostering nationalist movements in the former republics, "now the Communists are now leading us towards the break-up of the Russian Federation with their national insinuation."

Russia's Communist Party was banned in 1991 after the coup attempt against then

Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, only to be allowed to reform a year later.

In the run-up to this year's revolution anniversary, the party provoked political outrage by rallying behind renowned nationalist and anti-Semite Albert Makashov and voting down a parliamentary bill to censure the deputy's rabid anti-Jewish outbursts.

Communists spoke out at Saturday's revolution day rally in support of Makashov, a Communist Party deputy in the State Duma lower house of parliament.

"With their solidarity for Makashov at the Nov. 7 meeting in Moscow, the Communists put themselves outside the laws of the civilised world, outside the laws of Russia," Berezovsky was quoted as saying.

Berezovsky is one of Russia's so-called "oligarchs," a group of tycoons who amassed huge fortunes out of Russia's clique capitalism and wield huge influence in the Kremlin.

His sentiments were echoed by former liberal premier Yegor Gaidar,

who said that the Communists had to be banned as "they are transforming themselves not into a social-democratic party but a Nazi party, as testified by the way the party's Duma faction rallied behind the anti-Semitic animal Albert Makashov."

Gaidar expressed his opinions, carried by RIA Novosti, at a requiem for victims of the revolution Saturday evening.

President Boris Yeltsin for his part said Russia is under no threat from the Communists.

For all their bluster and anti-government virulence, the Communists were now nothing but a distant relative of the Bolsheviks who overthrew the provisional government in October 1917, he said Saturday.

"In the Communist programme, they talk about democracy, private ownership, free enterprise and the financial markets," said Yeltsin in a pre-recorded address from a Black Sea retreat, where he is recovering from nervous exhaustion.

"It is no longer a question of proletariat hegemony and world revolution."

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## U.S. journalist who interviewed Pol Pot receives \$20,000 award

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — Nate Thayer, an American reporter who became the first Western journalist in nearly two decades to interview the elusive Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, was awarded \$20,000 by an investigative research organisation Saturday.

Thayer, a South East Asia correspondent for the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review, was given the award for outstanding international investigative reporting during the inaugural conference of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, held at Harvard University.

The consortium's five-judge panel said Thayer

had "illuminated a page of history that would have been lost to the world had he not spent years in the Cambodian jungle."

During the mid-1970s, Pol Pot orchestrated one of the bloodiest revolutions in modern times. As many as 2 million Cambodians died of starvation, execution and disease in Khmer Rouge communes. Since then, the Khmer Rouge has operated as a guerrilla army operating mostly from northern

Cambodia.

In July 1997, Thayer, 38, a former Associated Press reporter, witnessed the former ruler's show trial, carried out by the guerrillas he had led for three decades.

Thayer later inter-

viewed Pol Pot — deposed as head of the movement and placed under house arrest — in a Khmer Rouge jungle stronghold. Video of the interview provided the first images in decades of the ailing, grey-haired Pol Pot, who died in April at 73.

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bubbling."

Thayer later inter-

دولت اسلامی

## John Glenn exuberant upon return, but weak

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — John Glenn returned to Earth Saturday as exuberant as when he set out on his historic rocket ride, a journey of nearly 6.4 million kilometres that took him four decades to achieve.

Five minutes after space shuttle Discovery touched down, Glenn called out that he felt fine.

"This is PS2," the 77-year-old U.S. senator said, referring to his status as payload specialist No. 2. "I'm better known to a lot of you as John, and I want to reprise a statement that I made a long, long time ago, except this time it is: One-g and I feel fine." When it came time to stand up and walk, however, the world's oldest space traveller was visibly weak — the unsurprising result of nine days of weightlessness.

Holding on to both banisters, Glenn moved slowly and stiffly as he emerged from an airport-style people-mover that had been hooked up to the shuttle. He joined his six crewmates in the traditional walk around the shuttle, then was whisked to a space centre clinic for a series of medical tests.

The testing was tak-



Discovery astronauts (left to right) Steve Robinson, John Glenn, Pilot Steve Lindsey and Commander Curt Brown examine the exterior of the orbiter after returning to Kennedy Space Centre. The orbiter carried a crew of seven, including Glenn, who is on his second mission into space, having first flown on the Friendship 7 Mercury Programme orbital flight on February 20, 1962 (Reuters photo)

ing so long and the hour getting so late that NASA cancelled an evening news con-

ference with the crew. NASA officials insisted it had nothing to do with Glenn's

health, that he was merely tired and would meet with reporters Sunday

morning. Once the checkups were over, Glenn got a congratulatory call

from President Bill Clinton. The two men chatted privately for 10 minutes.

## Journalists meet on press freedom in South East Asia

BANGKOK (AFP) — South East Asian journalists launched a new regional alliance here Sunday to fight for press freedom and to monitor attacks on reporters.

The South East Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) will set up a secretariat in Bangkok next year to urge governments to overturn repressive media laws and monitor attacks on journalists, a statement said.

"This is a landmark development in the history of the Southeast Asian press," said Kavi Chongkittavorn, executive editor of Bangkok's The Nation newspaper.

"We journalists have to be able to defend ourselves and help our Asian colleagues," Kavi said.

Delegates from independent journalist associations in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand will steer the SEAPA, formed during a weekend seminar here on press freedom in South East Asia organised by the Reporters' Association of Thailand.

Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan told the forum Saturday press freedom was vital to ensuring reform and openness in the public and private sectors.

"Freedom is indivisible. It is all or none," Surin

said. "It is therefore the responsibility of each member of society not only to safeguard the freedom of the press but also to ensure the safety of its practitioners," he said.

The outspoken Thai foreign minister told the forum his government was planning to set up a new human rights commission under the constitution and was pushing for the establishment of a similar body within the Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN).

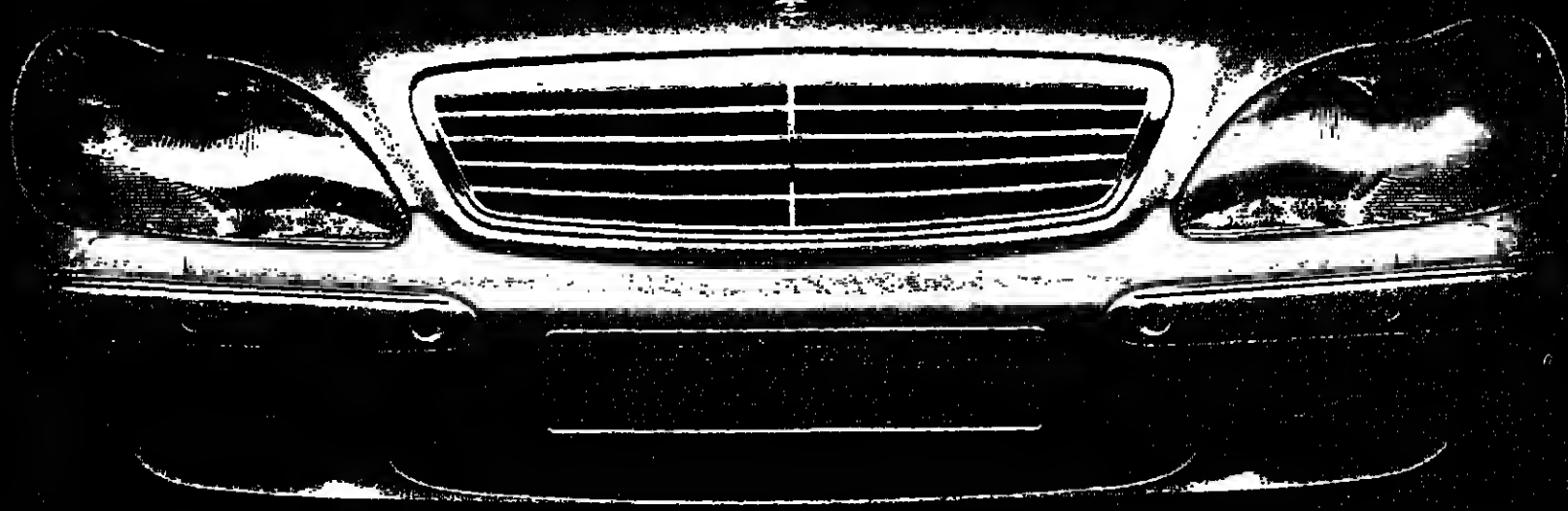
But Surin warned of a "long uphill journey for all of us."

"It will have to be slow in order to keep the consensual way" of ASEAN, he added, stressing the regional grouping was not "a single-issue constituency."

"Press freedom, while representing a basic human right, is probably not universally accepted (in this region) because transparency and openness run counter to vested interests," Surin said.

Journalists groups have frequently voiced anxiety about press freedom in Asia.

Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières recently expressed concern about the climate for journalists covering Malaysia's political crisis.



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## Unacceptable behaviour

**YUGOSLAVIA'S DECISION** to deny top-level U.N. war crimes investigators access to the province of Kosovo to gather evidence of alleged Serb atrocities on the pretext that the conflict is an internal affair is absurd but equally unlawful. The entire thrust of humanitarian law is to bring human rights violations, crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, even if they were domestic, within the ambit of international jurisdiction. For Belgrade to plead the opposite runs counter to the trend that the recent creation of the International Criminal Court has established.

As a matter of fact, what the court aimed to establish was already reflected in existing conventions against genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Serbian authorities are trying to roll back the international consensus on the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators of international crimes. Even as Belgrade claims its military intervention in Kosovo was to suppress "terrorism," such intervention must abide by international norms. No country, big or small, is at liberty to commit crimes even when it conducts a police action to restore calm and stability. There are ground rules for the conduct of warfare whether local, regional or international and obviously the Serbs do not seem to believe that these rules apply to them as well.

The Serb authorities must be made to cooperate with the Hague-based international war crimes tribunal which is trying desperately to establish the truth about the atrocities that were allegedly committed by Serb forces. That acts of barbarism were committed against Kosovo civilians is common knowledge. Belgrade has nothing to fear if it is so confident that its troops did not commit these crimes. But to claim immunity or impunity on the basis of a defunct principle is simply unacceptable.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Ra'i's Faded Faneek** called on the Minister of State for Development Affairs, Taher Kana'an, to announce the reason behind the suspension of the sale of the government's stake in the Jordan Telecommunications Company (JTC). Faneek said questions about this issue need to be answered, but not in line with the government policy of transparency. Kana'an remains silent. People need to know what the justifications are for halting the process of privatisation in this instance, and what, if any, alternatives have been looked into. Is it true that the company's capital amounts to \$3 billion, as declared by the chairman of the board, or is it \$1.2 billion as evaluated by some experts? If it is \$1.2 billion why doesn't the government float the company's shares on the Amman Stock Market? "We need to know, who has the final say in privatising the telecommunication company: is it the government or Shukri [the company's chairman]?" asked Faneek.

**Al Dustour's** Yasser Zaatra said resistance will always be the best option for the Palestinians. Struggle for freedom is truly representative of the Palestinian and Arab attitude. This can clearly be seen from people's reaction to a martyr's funeral takes place, when the response to the Wye River agreement, Zaatra's remarks came after two Islamists blew themselves up in a car in occupied Jerusalem. However, Zaatra said, the bomb was a blessing in disguise for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), because it provides the justification the PNA needs to launch a campaign of arrests among the Islamists in the West Bank. The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, on the other hand, only stands to lose, since he thought he had brought peace and security to Israel when he signed the treaty with the PNA.

# Lockerbie and the law

By Pascal B. Karmy

IN ONE of my articles a few years ago I stated the general principles of extradition, and I quoted Ian Brownlie as follows: "In the normal case, the process of extradition accords with good policy. The values of justice are preserved and the interest of the requesting state in exercising jurisdiction is recognised. Moreover the individual is not allowed to escape responsibility for the common types of crimes (Ian Brownlie: Principles of public international law).

With the exception of alleged crimes under international law such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace, and in the absence of a treaty between the states concerned, surrender of an accused or of an alleged criminal cannot be demanded as of right. In other words, in general there is no obligation to extradite. On the other hand, there is no general rule which forbids surrender by the requested state despite the absence of a treaty.

In the case of Libya I have stated that Libya has the right to refuse the request of the United States and Britain for the following reasons:

1. The Libyan constitution does not allow the extradition of Libyan nationals which is quite lawful.

2. There is no extradition treaty between Libya and the U.S. or Britain.

3. No sufficient evidence has been transmitted to the Libyan authorities to charge the suspected Libyans.

4. Libya wanted to try the accused in its own courts and asked the U.S. and Britain to submit documentary or other evidence to substantiate their claim, but they did not respond. Thus, although Libya refused to extradite its nationals, it was ready to assume its responsibility under international law by trying the suspected persons, yet no proof was forthcoming from the requesting states.

5. There is no guarantee by the U.S. and Britain that the suspected persons would receive a fair trial in either

country, especially after those states raised such a hue and cry in the world media about the suspects that they have created genuine prejudice against them in the public opinion. These states have almost prejudged the issue.

After Libya refused to surrender the suspected persons, the Security Council of the United Nations passed Resolution No. 731 of April 15, 1992 ordering Libya to surrender the two Libyans. With regard to this resolution, Erskin Childers the well-known writer and journalist wrote the following: The insidious abuse of the Charter (of the United Nations) has now been taken one dangerous stage further over Libya. The captive council has been made to ignore peace redress under Chapter VI even when a state is performing its obligations under a treaty: even when — as laid down in Article 36.2 (of the statute of the International Court of Justice) — it has taken a dispute to the International Court of Justice, the U.N. principal judicial organ. The role of the world court is thus now also jeopardised.

Furthermore, Cambridge University Law Professor Marc Weller recently wrote in the "European" that some judges were privately enraged by this use of the Security Council. "For in this instance the mechanism designed to combat actual acts of aggression has been transformed into a machinery for ad hoc lawmaking to further interests of individual states, and prejudice the decisions of the court."

Libya sent a letter to the secretary general of the U.N. rejecting the accusation against the two Libyans, but expressed its desire to solve the problem peacefully in compliance with the principles of international law and the Charter of the U.N. In particular the letter referred to Article 41 (1) of the Montreal Agreement of 1971 which provides, inter alia, in the event of a dispute between the parties and in case no agreement has been reached by negotiations, the dispute may be resolved by arbitration through the International Court of Justice. The letter mentioned also Article 33 of the Charter of the U.N.

which states that in the event of dispute, the parties shall seek solution by negotiation, mediation, inquiry, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement. The U.S. and Britain rejected compliance with this article or with the relevant provision of the Montreal Agreement and submitted the matter again to the Security Council. The latter issued Resolution 848 of 1992 condemning Libya for non-compliance with the previous Resolution 731 and imposing sanctions on Libya including a prohibition of flights over Libya, a reduction in the number of diplomats in the diplomatic missions and a prohibition to give it assistance whether technical or otherwise etc.

In October 1997, Libya appealed to the International Court of Justice at the Hague to hear the case. Despite the objections of the U.S. and Britain on the ground that the case had already been considered by the Security Council and that therefore the International Court of Justice has no jurisdiction, the court nevertheless delivered a decision on February 27, 1998, to the effect that it has jurisdiction to deal with the case in accordance with Articles 36 and 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

In view of, and following the court's decision and the non-compliance of the African countries with the sanctions imposed upon Libya, the U.S. and Britain agreed to have the trial of the two Libyan suspects conducted at the Hague in Holland by Scottish judges and according to Scottish law. Libya agreed to this proposal, but asked for guarantees before sending the suspects for trial outside Libya. For example, who will guarantee that the suspects will not be kidnapped and sent to the U.S. or Britain for trial, and where will the suspects serve their sentence in case they are convicted? These are guarantees and questions which Libya is fully justified to raise.

The writer was an advocate in Palestine in 1944 and, for many years, legal officer at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna.



## The new black death

By Gwynne Dyer

IF A REPORT had been published last weekend forecasting a war that would kill ten to fifteen per cent of the people of all the countries of central and eastern Europe in the next five years (as the World War II did), you would be hearing a lot about it.

Even less extravagant predictions of disaster — say, of an influenza epidemic that would kill one or two per cent of the world's population over the next year (like the influenza epidemic of 1918-19) — would certainly be the number one news topic around the world this week.

How odd, then, that a United Nations forecast predicting that a new plague will kill two per cent of the population of a number of countries each year for the indefinite future got so little attention. Maybe it's because the countries are all in Africa.

The forecast, published on October 30, was part of the U.N.'s annual world population survey. And the plague, of course, is not all that new: it is AIDS, which has been with us for more than a decade now. But the very long incubation period means that the full scope of the damage takes a long time to emerge. Only now is the scale of the tragedy in Africa becoming clear.

AIDS probably originated in sub-Saharan Africa, and it has certainly been epidemic there for longest. Now, says the U.N. report, it has reached pandemic status in a number of black Africa's 54 countries, with up to 25 per cent of the population HIV positive. In African conditions, the vast majority of these people will die over the next ten years — though not before passing the virus on to many others.

Ninety-one per cent of the world's AIDS deaths so far have occurred in African countries, states the U.N. report, and 86 per cent of people currently infected with HIV also live there. It is desperate news for a continent already weighed down by troubles, and every indication is that it's just going to get worse.

"In looking at global epidemics," commented Lester Brown, president

of the Washington-based World Watch Institute, "one has to go back to the 16th century and the introduction of smallpox to the Aztec population of what is now Mexico to find anything on that scale, and before that to the bubonic plague in Europe in the 14th century."

In human terms, what this means is that vast numbers of Africans are dying young. Five years ago, thanks to decades of public health programmes, a baby born in Zimbabwe could expect an average lifespan of 61 years — and Zimbabwean public health experts were looking forward to achieving the 70 years typical of western Europe in the foreseeable future.

Thanks to AIDS, however, a newborn Zimbabwean today can only expect to live an average of 39 years. Within the next decade, that will drop to 31 years. To put it starkly, a Zimbabwean born in 2008 can expect a life only half as long as a Zimbabwean born in 1993.

The situation may, in fact, be even worse than the U.N. report suggests, partly because many African countries are still concealing the true statistics on infection rates, and partly because U.N. statisticians have to work with old data. They give the rate of HIV infection in Zimbabwe, for example, as 25 per cent.

That was the rate observed among pregnant women in Harare eight years ago (which caused great alarm at the time). But by last year, the national rate of HIV infection had risen to 40 per cent — and this year a survey of ante-natal clinics in southern Masvingo province (a non-urban area where you would expect lower infection rates) found that 67 per cent of women there were HIV positive.

Let us spell out what that statistic means. It means that more than two-thirds of the women of child-bearing age in that part of Zimbabwe, at least, are almost certainly going to die of AIDS in the next ten years — and so will most of their children.

Because the deaths are spread out in time, the immediate impact of this plague is less visible than in the great pandemics of the past. But cumula-

tively, AIDS may actually hit Africa harder than the Black Death struck Europe 650 years ago (when around a third of the population died).

The U.N. report still talks conservatively about "lower population growth rates" (cutting Zimbabwe's, for example, from 3.3 per cent annually in the 80s to less than one per cent by 2000). Another recent report, "Focus on HIV/AIDS in the Developing World", by Peter Wray and colleagues, forecasts an African population in 2010 that will be 71 million smaller than it would have been without AIDS. But the reality, as in 14th century Europe, may be an absolute fall in population, and perhaps a very steep one.

Unlike the Europe of the Black Death, however, Africa could be saved. In developed countries, new drugs have slashed the death rate and transformed the lives of those infected with HIV. But no African country can afford to pay for anti-retroviral drugs for its population, and few sufferers have enough means of their own.

"I have one patient who is taking the drugs," said Isaac Dombro, who runs a clinic in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. "He has a very good job and three members of his family are helping him to pay for the drugs. Others who are desperate scrape up the money to buy them and show dramatic improvement for a few months. Then they run out of money and deteriorate. It is very frustrating."

This is a calamity with almost no external repercussions. Africa barely figures in the global economy, and AIDS problems elsewhere (some Asian countries may face very high infection rates in five years' time) are not in any way linked to Africa's fate.

But it would not be a bad time for those whose ancestors grew rich on turning black Africans into slaves and looting their resources — western Europeans, Americans, Brazilians, the eastern Arabs — to think about a grand gesture of atonement. A grand financial gesture of atonement, like putting up the money to fight the worst plague that has struck any human population in modern times.

## LETTERS

### Best wishes

To the editor:

TO HIS Majesty King Hussein, wishing you a quick recovery, Your Majesty. Please accept our sincere and devoted wishes for your coming birthday from all of us here in Montreal. May God keep you well for all of us and may your wishes all come true. God bless Jordan and God bless you.

Joseph Snidan and family  
Montreal  
Canada

To the editor:

FROM THE United Kingdom, and on behalf of all my Jordanian pilot colleagues, I would like to convey to His Majesty King Hussein our everlasting wishes of great health and prosperity, praying to God that each new day will find him feeling better.

Happy Birthday Your Majesty, may God keep you well as you bring inspiration and motivation to all of us knowing that your well of strength and determination will never run dry.

Pilot Yazan M.K Shiyab  
British Aerospace Flight Training (U.K.) LTD  
Prestwick International Airport  
The United Kingdom

## Learn your history!

To the editor:

WHILE THE closure of the offices of Al Jazeera satellite TV station in Amman was an unnecessary over-reaction by the government (the idea of the programme is an excellent one and it is long overdue in our region), it is nevertheless understandable. What is incomprehensible is the tirade of anti-Jordanian rhetoric uttered by individuals who would certainly not pass their basic O-level in history, and who are the intellectual products of one of the most fossilised and sclerotic states in the Middle East. The claim that the Hashemites were rewarded for siding with the Zionists with the creation of Jordan is utter historical nonsense. The establishment of the Emirate of Trans-Jordan in 1921, as well as the birth of most states of the Near East, were a result of the disintegration of the "mother country" the Ottoman Empire, as well as the historical by-product of Anglo-French power rivalry.

Jordan is no more "an artificial entity" than is every other country in the Arab World. Our continuity and stability since 1921, qualifies us, if qualification were ever needed, to call ourselves a nation because, regardless of the reference to us as a bunch of bedouins (and proud of it) we consider ourselves to be a nation. And that is all that matters.

Those who blindly subscribe to the conspiracy theory of history like to see evil and malice in every action and seem to overlook the fact that in the early twenties the so-called dangers of the Zionist movement were not as clear and as pronounced to the patriotic Prince Abdullah who had just fought a war of liberation against the Turks. They also conveniently forget that in dealing with the Jews and with the Israelis over the years, the Hashemites have always displayed a foresightedness and a patriotism borne out by later events. Before Abdullah there was a Jordan: that must surely be the strongest argument in favour of the Hashemites' unquestioned political legitimacy as rulers of our country, which is more than can be said about those soldiers in neighbouring states who have usurped power through the illegal medium of a coup d'etat.

Dr. Kamal Tawfiq Nimri  
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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Features:  
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# Wadi 'Isal: Ancient link between the plateau and the Southern Ghors

(Note: This is the ninth in an intermittent series of articles on the antiquities of the Southern Ghors region, along the south-east coast of the Dead Sea. This week's article looks at Wadi 'Isal, while next week's examines the search for the biblical site of Luhith in the Wadi 'Isal region.)

ABOUT SEVEN kilometres south of the Karak Southern Ghors road junction is the mouth of Wadi 'Isal, where it enters the broad plain along the south-eastern shore of the Dead Sea. The wadi has been inaccessible for most of this century, because of the lack of a paved road and its occasional status as a closed military area before the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace accord. Today, this region is more easily reached from the Jordanian plateau, via three roads — the traditional route from Karak, and two new roads from the north-east Dead Sea coast and (to my mind the single most beautiful stretch of road in all Jordan) the new road linking Tafleeh in the Jordanian plateau with the Feifeh-Wadi 'Isal area in the Southern Ghors. The views in all directions from the new Tafleeh road are nothing short of spectacular — north over the Southern Ghors and the Dead Sea, west towards the Dead Sea, Palestine and Israel, and south towards the Wadi 'Arabah.

Equally impressive are some of the antiquities in or near the Wadi 'Isal, which was surveyed twice in recent decades — first in 1979 by the German scholar Dr. Siegfried Mittmann, and then in 1981 by Dr. Linda Jacobs of the U.S. This area also provides the backdrop to one of the more intriguing mysteries of ancient times: where was the site called Luhith in the Bible, and what was it exactly?

Wadi 'Isal is one of the smaller east-west wadis connecting the valley with the plateau. Glueck overflew and photographed it in the 1930s, identifying a few conspicuous sites and a Roman road along the wadi's 15-kilometre-long south ridge. The route of the well-preserved road, the most conspicuous ancient feature of the area, can still be traced today along much of its length. Nelson Glueck collected Nabataean, Byzantine and Ayyubid/Mamluke sherds in Wadi 'Isal when he visited the area in

the 1930s, and the modern surveys have documented the area with more precision.

Emerging from the ghor floor about 400 metres east of the north-south road through the Southern Ghors is a Byzantine structure that looks like just a pile of stones. It is clearly visible just east of the main highway. The first hill behind it to the east, also clearly visible from the highway, has the remains of a building from the late Roman/Byzantine period, adjacent to the remains of the ancient road that followed the wadi's course. These sites are located just under a kilometre south of the small blue "Ussal" road sign next to a large, red and white metal transmission tower east of the road. The best landmark if you go looking for this area at the mouth of the Wadi 'Isal is the new salt plant on the west side of the main road, which is a few hundred metres north of the mouth of the Wadi 'Isal.

## Jacobs' survey

Jacobs' 1981 survey of Wadi 'Isal aimed to identify ancient sites and occupation patterns, and also to determine if Wadi 'Isal was an important communication route in the Early Bronze Age, when many walled towns existed in both the valley and the highlands.

The presence of the Roman road, and the relatively easy ascent to the highlands along Wadi 'Isal, suggested to Jacobs that the wadi may have been an ancient communication route in the Early Bronze Age (around 3300-2000 BC). Many Early Bronze Age (EB) walled cities and extensive cemeteries are documented in the valley and on the plateau, and recent archaeological work has verified that they traded with one another. But how did they communicate with one another?

The survey results refuted the hypothesis that Wadi 'Isal may have been a communication route in the EB period, for no EB sites at all were found in the wadi, and only a handful of possible EB sherds were collected. In fact, though the survey identified 90 sites and 32 "megalithic" tombs, very few seem to date from much before or after the ancient road. Jacobs believes the road was built in the late Roman/early Byzantine peri-

od, in the early 4th Century AD. The major communication routes must have passed through other east-west wadis. The best candidate is probably the much larger Wadi Karak, the main east-west route in the area today. Other possible east-west routes include Wadi Feifeh and Wadi Numeira.

Most of the sites Jacobs identified were not proper settlements, but rather "transient occupations at best," she says. Only 14 sites (all Byzantine) have standing remains, and seven others have fragments of wall lines in the ground.

Most sites were small flint or pottery sherd scatters, usually covering an area of less than 200 square metres. This suggests they may have been bedouin camps or even less permanent sites such as shepherds' stopping places or seasonal harvest-time camps.

The oldest artifacts are flint scatters at 14 sites, the largest covering just 40 metres in diameter. Most had Levallois-Mousterian points, flakes, blades and cores from around 65,000 years ago, and one site had an Acheulean handaxe made of mottled brown chert. A single large, 900-square-metre site from the Chalcolithic period (5th-4th Millennium) has much pottery and flint, the remains of a stone-lined water cistern on its flat summit, stone foundations of a small rectangular structure, sherd spindle whorls, and limestone grinding stones. It seems to be an isolated phenomenon, for very little Chalcolithic material was found in the rest of the wadi (but it is more plentiful at the north-east coast of the Dead Sea, according to other recent surveys).

Jacobs found pottery from the Iron II period at 24 sites, but predominantly at three sites that had remains of built structures. All three are located on small hillocks or mounds averaging some five metres higher than the ancient road.

During the Roman period, Wadi 'Isal appears not to have been heavily used, for only two of the 43 sites with Roman pottery have a predominance of such pottery. Two Roman sites have architectural remains, including a large (12 x 13-metre) square structure within which was built a smaller square well or cistern. Its one-metre-thick walls consist of a double row of dry-laid stones dressed only on their exterior face, with a rubble fill in the centre.

At least 12 sites had typical Nabataean pottery, though no Nabataean period structures could be clearly identified.

According to Jacobs' calculation of the average distance of Roman sites from the road, the late Roman sites seem more directly related to the road than the Nabataean or early Roman sites. The late Roman sites are clustered around the road at its east and central sections, and on the valley floor.

*'Was this the site called Luhith in the Bible, and what was it exactly?'*

## Extensive Byzantine remains

Wadi 'Isal, like much of the rest of Jordan, was most extensively used during the Byzantine period; 69 sites produced Byzantine pottery, and many flint flakes, but few tools or blades, suggesting that most of the sites were for transient use. The majority (63 sites) were used in the late Byzantine period, and 40 also had early Byzantine wares. Four standing buildings were found on early Byzantine sites. Construction techniques were similar to the Roman period, with large, rough-cut stones dry-laid in double rows with a rubble core. Standing Byzantine era remains include cisterns, houses, courtyards, animal pens, water catchment devices or animal troughs.

One early Byzantine structure in Ghor 'Isal, on the valley floor, is a large building (12.5 x 7 metres) located just four metres from the ancient road, on a promontory over-

looking the valley floor, the wadi, and the road itself in both directions. Due to its siting next to the road, this building may have been a customs or toll station, or perhaps served a defensive role as a watchtower.

Another large, 22 x 12-metre early Byzantine structure in Ghor 'Isal consists of a series of 80-centimetre-thick exterior walls stepping down a small hill.

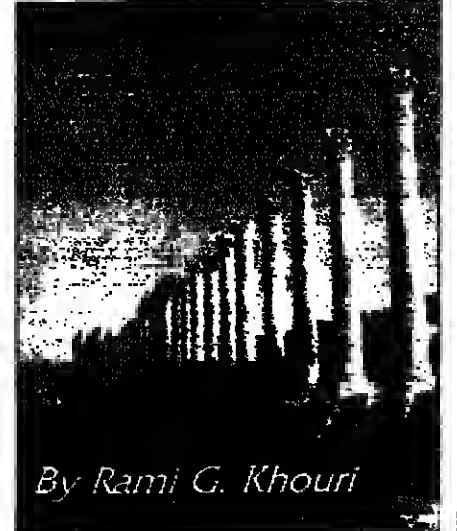
The site's position suggests it was a watchtower, but it could have been related to the road that once may have passed near it.

Other late Byzantine remains are a three-room structure on a small promontory ten metres above the wadi bed (near a cluster of robbed tombs 30 metres to the south), and a 14 x 11-metre one-room 'house' built of a single row of uncut field stones. Two five-metre-diameter circular structures to its north-east may have animal pens. In Ghor 'Isal is another late Byzantine structure that Glueck called a birkeh (pool). This 35-metre-square structure, at the mouth of the wadi, was fed by a water channel from the wadi itself. Its 2.5-metre-thick walls still stand over three metres high. It is used today as a garden space, though the ancient water channel from the wadi has fallen out of use.

Jacobs feels the close association of the one Byzantine site (the possible 'customs post') with the road in Ghor 'Isal, and the total absence of Roman milestones in the survey area, indicate the road was probably built at the end of the Roman or the beginning of the Byzantine period, perhaps in the early 4th Century AD.

No early Islamic sites were identified, though ten had Mamluke pottery from the 13th-15th Centuries AD. Only one of the sites had a substantial Mamluke occupation (but the north ridge of Wadi 'Isal has several large Mamluke settlements). The single large Mamluke site is a 90 x 30-metre mound directly on the alluvial fan, where the wadi opens into Ghor 'Isal. Besides pottery, other Mamluke artifacts included a coin dated to the reign of "King Nasr Muhammad" (probably the 14th Century AD monarch), a carnelian bead, and over 50 fragments of glass.

Thirty-two stone structures scattered throughout high places in the



By Rami G. Khouri

survey area are thought to be tombs. They are typically circles of large stones some 5-6 metres in diameter; variations included five two-chambered tombs with a dividing wall, circles with two large stones standing on end facing each other in the centre, a mound of stones filling the interior of the circle, a rectangular structure within the circle, and simple, coffin-shaped rectangular structures without a surrounding circle of stones. Dating these 'tombs' is virtually impossible without excavating, for few sherds were associated with them. Jacobs leans towards dating them from the Byzantine period.

She concludes that, "clearly, Wadi 'Isal has always been a marginal occupation zone," inhabited only when the density of population in other, more desirable, parts of Jordan/Palestine became too great. The area does not have enough water to support a large permanent population, and the topsoil is inadequate for serious farming. In the Byzantine period, population pressures in other parts of the country forced the people to move into such marginal areas, where they constructed some buildings and water systems.

Though Wadi 'Isal provides a relatively comfortable communication route between the valley and the plateau, Jacobs says that "the limitations presented by lack of water and adequate topsoil were apparently not compensated for by its relative ease of access."

Interestingly, the construction of the new road linking Ghor 'Isal and Feifeh with Tafleeh revives a historical tradition that had intermittently used the wadi as a communication route between the valley and the plateau. Whether the new road also prompts renewed settlement within the Wadi 'Isal region remains to be seen.

## Mental health care emergency in Jordan

There is a crisis in mental health care in North Jordan, contends Numan M. Gharaibeh, MD of the Faculty of Medicine at Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid, and the sooner we start collecting accurate and exhaustive data, and making it freely available, the sooner we can start addressing the problem.

IT TAKES a lot of courage to go to a psychiatrist in Jordan. It takes even more courage to admit it. Let's face it, who wants to be labelled 'majnoon' (insane in Arabic)? Stigmatisation is a major problem in psychiatry, however, we have much more concrete problems at hand than stigmatisation of patients.

### Resources:

There is a critical shortage of human resources: Psychotherapies (talk-therapies) are not used, but rarely due to time constraints. Psychotherapies and social therapies are neglected in Jordan due to the lack of qualified personnel quantitatively and qualitatively. The shortage of psychiatrists in the public sector means there is time pressure on them to see more patients in less time, which makes it all the more difficult to administer psychotherapies. Psychologists and social workers are mainly out of the mental health team — indeed there is still no social work schools in Jordan.

But there is also a lack of non-human resources, and when resources are scarce, tough decisions have to be made. This could not be truer than in the case of Mental Health Care in North Jordan. Having practised psychiatry in the United States for three years, I was struck by the lack of community resources available for the psychiatric patients and their families in north Jordan. In addition to the absence of in-patient and residential facilities, outpatient community resources are very poorly organised, staffed, and equipped. Medications' availability is erratic.

### Cost:

Psychotropic medications are vital to the delivery of acceptable Mental Health Care in Jordan due to high costs. The high cost of the newer generations of psychiatric medications makes them out of reach for the vast majority of Jordanians. For example, the new-generations of antidepressants available in the Jordanian markets like fluoxetine (Prozac) and local

others, sertraline (Zoloft), fluvoxamine (Luvox, Faverin), venlafaxine (Effexor), citalopram (Cipram) and others cost more than JD30 per month depending on the dose.

Since mental health care is becoming more expensive each day, most Jordanians cannot keep up with the cost. Doctors and patients may choose to ignore this issue or postpone dealing with it. However, sooner or later we have to face the problem of patients and families not capable of affording even basic treatments. Even those with government insurance may face serious limitations, delays, or denial altogether of certain treatments.

Primarily because of the cost, I still write more prescriptions for the older generation drugs with their unpleasant side effects. In the elderly population, the unpleasant side effects may be dangerous or fatal, especially that the elderly are more prone to have medical illnesses and to be taking more than one medication. Drug interactions may complicate the issue further.

### The hard questions:

It is impossible to discuss medical care in general and Mental Health Care in particular without touching upon other issues such as the moral, political, financial, social and philosophical issues. Questions such as "how much are we willing to pay to save someone's life?" or "how far should we go to prevent a suicide or a homicide?" have to be answered. The following example is to illustrate this point further:

An elderly patient suffering from depression and heart disease may have to spend up to JD60 for a one-month supply of an antidepressant since cheaper medications may be contraindicated. If that patient is presently paying JD10 per month as a premium for his health insurance, then someone, somewhere (may be the government) is losing more than JD50 a month because of that single patient.

Morally speaking, that patient has to get his medication at any cost. His quality of life, if not his very existence, depends on it (among other things). However, financial, political, and social concerns make us unable to avoid asking the following philosophical question: "Is this patient's anti-depressant worth the cost?" The issues become murkier if it has to do with a patient suffering from

alcoholism or drug addiction since our own prejudices get in the way.

### Decentralisation and insurance:

The issue of government sponsored health insurance paralysed the most affluent country in the world, the U.S., twice. Late 1996 and early 1997, the United States federal government was paralysed because of disputes over the rising bills of Medicaid (federal insurance) and Medicare (mainly state insurance). Inevitably, more privatisation followed and managed care companies got more of the market share.

Should there be a similar trend in Jordan, one of two things might happen. First, most people may not afford the annual premiums, therefore remain uninsured, therefore will have to pay out of their own pockets. Second, the health insurers may lower their premiums to accommodate most people, and therefore they themselves will go bankrupt.

There has been so much talk about decentralising services (health care included), but very little has been done. An old man starts off at 5 a.m. from Umm Al-Jimal heading off to Irbid in order to secure a one-month supply of medication for his daughter. "I can't bring her with me," he says. "I can't control her on the bus." Why can't this old man go to a mental health clinic in his neighbourhood, town, or the nearest town to secure his daughter's medication for the next month?

### Absent figures and planning:

We will do Mental Health Care great deal of injustice and disservice if we discuss these issues only in theory. The availability of exact figures is of utmost importance. Accurate figures, such as the number of patients with schizophrenia in the city of Amman, or the number of patients with Mental Retardation in the governorate of Irbid are vital but not available. Therefore, planning mental health delivery is at a great disadvantage.

There are more questions than answers in this subject, but avoiding problems will never make them go away. Ordinary citizens, health care providers (public and private), law-makers, politicians, academicians, drug makers and others concerned may have to start re-thinking our mental health care delivery system seriously before it is too late to salvage.

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# Crisis-hit Asia to grapple with corporate restructuring — IMF

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Most crisis-struck Asian economies were "very close" to pulling out of the financial malaise but have to grapple with the key issue of corporate restructuring, the IMF's first deputy managing director, Stanley Fischer, said Sunday.

"In each of the crisis countries that have IMF-supported programmes, there are frameworks in place, dealing with corporate sector restructuring and I think that is the main challenge for the next few months," he said.

Fischer was here to attend talks under the so-called Manila Framework, a regional surveillance group formed in the Philippine capital four months after Asia's financial crisis broke out in July 1997.

He said there were signs in some countries, citing Thailand as an example, where the crisis was bottoming out. "The bottoming out" will either be now or early next year in all likelihood, Fischer said it was

said. "But, this is provided the international environment does not deteriorate and depending on what happens in Japan."

"But on current expectations, I think the most badly affected countries are probably very close to the bottom or even at the bottom now," he added.

Except for Singapore and the Philippines, key Asian economies would be mired in negative economic growth this year as a result of the currency crisis sparked off in mid-1997.

The IMF has arranged bailout packages worth some \$120 billion for Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea since the regional currency contagion began with the float of the Thai baht.

But the world body has been criticised for imposing harsh austerity programmes in return, including sky-high interest rates which led to a credit crunch and plunged the economies deep into recession.

Fischer said it was

hard for him to believe that much of Asia was one year into the crisis now.

"The average recession in U.S. lasts a year. This recession in Asia is not an average recession. This is a very deep recession. The fact that we are talking about a turnaround now is already encouraging," he said.

But Fischer noted that "important progress" on banking sector restructuring had been made in the region and "less progress" on corporate sector restructuring.

He said such restructuring, or reforms, was not easy.

"If there is progress and everybody plans to make progress, then I think we should also be quite happy with the pace of reforms. These are not easy things to do. They are difficult technically, they are difficult politically, they are difficult to finance and the fact that we are discussing with economies and with such detail and that the frameworks are in place

is encouraging," Fischer said.

On Malaysia, which has imposed exchange controls to insulate the economy to avoid contagion from the financial crisis, Fischer said the biggest question was whether Kuala Lumpur could get external financing to implement its expansionary budget.

Malaysian Premier Mahathir Mohammad, who took over the finance ministry after sacking his deputy Anwar Ibrahim in September, recently unveiled a 1999 budget which rejected IMF austerity measures prescribed elsewhere.

The 1999 budget of

65.095 billion ringgit (\$17.13 billion) is down 9.3 per cent from a year earlier but with a larger deficit of 16.635 billion ringgit to finance infrastructure and other pump-priming projects.

"There would be question of financing of the budget and of the financial sector restructuring that has to take place as to whether that is doable without external financial assistance," he said.

"So, we will have to see whether that is possible and there is an interaction between the way the capital markets look at Malaysia and the availability of external financing," he added.

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1598 R	Internet Servers	23/12/1998	23/12/1998	100
296 R	Chemistry Labs (General Devices)	30/12/1998	30/12/1998	50
598 R	Chemicals Metals	30/12/1998	30/12/1998	20
598 R	Chemicals Sats	30/12/1998	30/12/1998	20
1495	Colours & Brushes	6/1/1999	6/1/1999	30
1498	General Tools	6/1/1999	6/1/1999	30
1498	Kilns & Accessories	6/1/1999	6/1/1999	60
1498	Pottery Wheels & Tools	6/1/1999	6/1/1999	35
1498	Special Tools	6/1/1999	6/1/1999	30
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## Exchange Rates Sunday, 08-11-98

ACCESS 4648668

CURRENCY	JORDAN DINAR	US DOLLAR	EURO	SWISS FRANC	GERMAN MARK	FRANCE FRANC	ITALY LIRA	NETHERLAND GILDER	SPAIN PESA	PORTUGAL ESCUDO	GREEK DRACHMA	CYPRUS POUND	AUSTRIA SCHILLING	CANADA DOLLAR	EURO
JORDAN DINAR	1.0000	0.1887	0.1927	1.8779	1.8390	0.1944	2.3436	0.2087	0.2087	0.2087	0.2087	0.2087	0.2087	0.2087	0.2087
US DOLLAR	5.2880	1.0000	0.0212	9.9491	9.7429	1.0302	12.4154	1.0658	1.0658	1.0658	1.0658	1.0658	1.0658	1.0658	1.0658
EURO	5.1881	0.9793	1.0000	9.7427	9.5408	1.0088	12.1868	1.0729	1.0729	1.0729	1.0729	1.0729	1.0729	1.0729	1.0729
SWISS FRANC	0.5326	0.1025	0.1026	1.0000	0.9793	0.1035	1.2490	0.1010	0.1010	0.1010	0.1010	0.1010	0.1010	0.1010	0.1010
GERMAN MARK	0.5459	0.1026	0.1046	1.0212	1.0000	0.1057	1.2744	0.1124	0.1124	0.1124	0.1124	0.1124	0.1124	0.1124	0.1124
FRANCE FRANC	1.9470	0.3675	0.3753	3.5565	3.5565	1.0000	12.0530	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632
ITALY LIRA	1.9470	0.3675	0.3753	3.5565	3.5565	1.0000	12.0530	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632	1.0632
NETHERLAND GILDER	2.1853	0.4087	0.4173	4.0661	3.9818	0.4210	5.0745	0.4476	0.4476	0.4476	0.4476	0.4476	0.4476	0.4476	0.4476
SPAIN PESA	1.6615	0.3124	0.3241	3.1577	3.0822	0.3270	3.9407	0.3479	0.3479	0.3479	0.3479	0.3479	0.3479	0.3479	0.3479
PORTUGAL ESCUDO	206.483	37.242	38.466	369.360	361.284	37.484	453.484	43.484	43.484	43.484	43.484	43.484	43.484	43.484	43.484
GREEK DRACHMA	340.750	61.365	63.542	613.650	601.284	62.148	753.484	72.484	72.484	72.484	72.484	72.484	72.484	72.484	72.484
CYPRUS POUND	2.0278	0.3644	0.3719	3.6444	3.5631	0.3719	4.5323	0.4759	0.4759	0.4759	0.4759	0.4759	0.4759	0.4759	0.4759
AUSTRIA SCHILLING	13.7603	2.4728	2.5341	24.7280	24.065	2.5341	30.8917	3.2038	3.2038	3.2038	3.2038	3.2038	3.2038	3.2038	3.2038
CANADA DOLLAR	1.3300	2.4040	2.4358	24.0400	23.452	2.4358	29.814	3.1446	3.1446	3.1446	3.1446	3.1446	3.1446	3.1446	3.1446
EURO	0.8514	0.1540	0.1540	1.5400	1.5157	0.1540	1.8446	0.1910	0.1910	0.1910	0.1910	0.1910	0.1910	0.1910	0.1910

## MAJOR CURRENCIES AGAINST JORDAN DINAR

CURRENCY	1 JD	100 JD	1000 JD	10000 JD	100000 JD	1000000 JD
US DOLLAR	0.1887	1.887	18.87	188.7	1887	18870
EURO	0.1927	1.927	19.27	192.7	1927	19270
SWISS FRANC	1.8779	18.779	187.79	1877.9	18779	187790
GERMAN MARK	1.8390	18.390	183.90	1839.0	18390	183900
FRANCE FRANC	0.1944	1.944	19.44	194.4	1944	19440
ITALY LIRA	2.3436	23.436	234.36	2343.6	23436	234360
NETHERLAND GILDER	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
SPAIN PESA	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
PORTUGAL ESCUDO	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
GREEK DRACHMA	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
CYPRUS POUND	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
AUSTRIA SCHILLING	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
CANADA DOLLAR	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
EURO	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870

## CENTRAL BANK BULLETIN

CURRENCY	1 JD	100 JD	1000 JD	10000 JD	100000 JD	1000000 JD
US DOLLAR	0.1887	1.887	18.87	188.7	1887	18870
EURO	0.1927	1.927	19.27	192.7	1927	19270
SWISS FRANC	1.8779	18.779	187.79	1877.9	18779	187790
GERMAN MARK	1.8390	18.390	183.90	1839.0	18390	183900
FRANCE FRANC	0.1944	1.944	19.44	194.4	1944	19440
ITALY LIRA	2.3436	23.436	234.36	2343.6	23436	234360
NETHERLAND GILDER	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
SPAIN PESA	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
PORTUGAL ESCUDO	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
GREEK DRACHMA	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
CYPRUS POUND	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
AUSTRIA SCHILLING	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
CANADA DOLLAR	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870
EURO	0.2087	2.087	20.87	208.7	2087	20870

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

STOCK MARKET	INDEX	CLOSING	LAST CLOSE	CHANGE
FRANKFURT	DAX	4811.60	4811.60	-30.12
HONG KONG	HANG SENG	10138.75	10221.00	-82.25
LONDON	FTSE 100	5491.00	5479.00	11.20
NEW YORK	DJ INDUSTRIAL	8915.47	8783.14	132.33
NEW YORK	NYSE COMPOSITE	562.18	555.14	7.04
NEW YORK	AMEX COMPOSITE	668.02	665.50	2.52
NEW YORK	S&P 500	1133.40	1118.60	14.80
TOKYO	Nikkei-225	14121.97	14341.37	-219.40
PARIS	CAC 40	3588.60	3596.18	-7.58
FRANKFURT	COMMERZBANK	4311.20	4502.40	8.80

## PRECIOUS METALS

METAL	ASK	BID
GOLD	230.00	230.00
SILVER	5.02	5.02
PLATINUM	339.50	341.50

## Petra Tours Reception

PETRA TRAVEL & TOURISM CO., General Sales Agents for Austrian Airlines, held a reception for Jordanian Travel Agents to meet with Heimo Gradischung/New Sales Manager-Jordan. In a welcome speech, Gradischung thanked all present for their support to Austrian Airlines, and offered his personal support and assistance for the Travel Agents and their passengers.



## THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- fruit
- Coach
- Parseghian and others
- Meat paste
- Shequille of the NBA
- Encircling route
- Son of Eve
- Missed putt
- Family member
- Monogrel
- Marydons
- Make right
- Countryside
- Attache?
- Heaven
- That guy
- Abba of Israel
- Rocky outcrop
- Sell-out letters
- Snaky turn
- Frequently
- politically
- French islands
- Go wrong
- Ruler of "Blade Runner"
- Bulldog
- trader?
- Mr. Baba
- French soldier of WW I
- One of The Pines
- Three-match connection
- Faucet
- Instruction to a plastic surgeon?
- Single
- coverture
- "Romeo"
- The "Limits"
- Foverty
- Endure
- German sub

By Philip J. Anderson  
Portland, OR

THURSDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED

Across

- Give new vigor
- Mass gown
- Arthur Ashe and Shea, e.g.
- Jack of "City Slickers"
- Border (on)
- Part of M.I.T.
- Fraternity order
- Wharrior
- School sub
- Fender damage
- Literary collection
- Brown shades
- Of the eyes
- Director Pter
- Passion
- Whole heron
- Hasten
- Approximately
- Not so
- dangerous
- Way in
- Provincial
- Mine vein
- Synagogue
- Piled
- Exorbitant prices
- Sun Devils sch.
- Meier starter?
- Dieting
- adjective
- Dist. across
- Some time
- Solitary
- Coal ending?
- 59 in (as a whole)
- 60 On a cruise
- 61 Impudently bold
- 63 End of pay?
- 64 "Are My Sunshine"
- 65 Crux

## Peanuts

6000 MORNING, I'M HERE TO ASK IF YOU'D CARE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE "GREAT PUMPKIN" NEWSLETTER

GET OFF OUR PORCH OR I'LL SIC OUR DOG ON YOU!

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO BOTHER YOU.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT, WE DON'T HAVE A DOG.

## Andy Capp

BETTING OFFICE

PERKINS GOODIE LIKE THE COMMON COLD, IT'S CATCHING

## Mutt'n'Jeff

LOOK AT THAT! HE DOES NOTHING BUT LOOK OUT THE WINDOW!

SOMEONE'S THINKING FOR THE COMPANY! BOSS, DON'T TALK TO HIM!

YOU'RE FIRED!

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

Travel Agency

"We'd like to book a vacation in a city that never sleeps so we won't have to pay for a room."

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUFET

SUNEE

TUIGLY

ZAMONA

Answer: TOO

## WHY THE APARTMENT BUILDING DIDN'T APPEAL TO THAT SHARP OPERA STAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: TOO

## World Bank report is the solution to

ACCORDING TO a World Bank report issued in September, the best way for Jordan to pull out of the economic crisis is to open the Palestinian market to Jordanian exports, despite the fact that the report also noted that there are still economic imbalances that must be improved.

The report emphasized the importance of continuing the privatization process, including the water sector, and the need to improve the efficiency of the public sector. It also noted that the Jordanian government should continue to improve the efficiency of the public sector and to improve the efficiency of the public sector.

## Muasher expects h

THE GENERAL assembly of the Al-Dustur Party, held in Amman, has elected a new committee to oversee the party's affairs. The committee is headed by Muasher, who is expected to lead the party in the upcoming elections.

## FORE

By [Name], [Address], [Phone Number]



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

### World Bank report says Palestinian market is the solution to revive Jordanian economy

\*\* ACCORDING TO a World Bank report issued in September, the only solution for Jordan at the present time to revive the economic situation is to open the Palestinian market to Jordanian exports, especially as the Iraqi market is closed due to U.N. sanctions. The report, a copy of which was received by the government, said there are still many economic imbalances that must be remedied if economic indications are to be improved.

The report emphasised the importance of continuing the privatisation policy including the water sector which registers an annual JD50 million deficit. It also listed the need to amend the insurance programmes of the Ministry of Health and putting them in specific frameworks, to raise university fees and to focus on supporting the poor through the National Aid Fund during the coming period.

The World Bank recommended lowering the price of bread from 200 fils per kilogramme to 150 fils and reconsidering the subsidy given to foodstuffs. It advised the govern-

ment to abolish customs exemptions which cost the state large amounts of money and to restructure the Kingdom's general budget if the deficit, which reached JD454 million before grants, is to be covered.

The report expects economic growth to retreat to 0.6 per cent in 1998 and remittances from expatriates to drop to 20 per cent for the same year. Foreign currency reserves at the Central Bank were forecast to decline from \$1.693 million in 1997 to \$1.340 million in 1998. However the bank expects the privatisation of the cement company and the telecommunications firm to raise between \$400 million and \$500 million which would be used to compensate the Central Bank for the drop in reserves.

The World Bank said the Jordanian society is not convinced with the economic reform programme and the privatisation policy followed by the government. Furthermore, the bank described the Jordanian public sector as unproductive (Al Aswaq).

### El Al Airlines to offer inflight money changing

TEL AVIV (R) — El Al Israel Airlines said Sunday it would be the world's first carrier to provide money changing services inflight.

Spokesman Nachman Klieman said El Al's Fly&Change service would allow passengers to buy up to \$500 worth of the local currency of their destination.

"We're not talking about big sums of money. We're talking about the amount of money people generally need to get themselves started on a trip," Klieman told Reuters.

El Al said it would initially operate the Fly&Change service on select flights from

Tel Aviv to Paris, London, Frankfurt and Zurich this month. The airline said it planned to expand the service to all of its destinations.

Klieman said El Al would be using an automatic device developed in Ireland to provide the service.

He said El Al would offer a competitive exchange rate and that the service would be subject to Israeli currency regulations.

El Al expects revenues of 100 million shekels (\$23.1 million) from its duty-free and exchange services in 1999, up from an expected 80 million shekels this year.

### Singapore tops Asian city for business

HONG KONG (AFP) — Fortune magazine has named Singapore as the top city in Asia to do business in 1998, citing factors such as quality of life and the business environment.

The South East Asian city-state was followed by Tokyo, Osaka and Hong Kong, the U.S.-based magazine said in a press statement.

number of new businesses, the increase in employment, crime rates and the environment.

In Europe, London took the number one spot, followed by Paris and Glasgow, while in the U.S. Austin Texas topped the list. Las Vegas and Salt Lake City took the two and three positions.

Kuala Lumpur topped the list in Asia last year before the Asian financial crisis plunged the economy into recession and fears of political instability rose with the arrest of former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim. Fortune, which compiled the list with the assistance of consultancy firm Arthur Andersen, also looked at factors such as the

### British business urged to emulate U.S. counterparts

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) — Britain's business sector was urged last week to more closely emulate its U.S. counterpart, with both a top government minister and a U.S. auto executive highlighting shortfalls in the work culture.

Alex Trotman, chairman of Ford, told the Confederation of British Industry's (CBI's) annual conference here that U.S. work ethics were needed to boost productivity.

The U.S.-based auto manufacturing giant's British assembly plants "are at least 20 per cent less productive than our best plants in the U.S.," he said. "We attribute that to work practices, excessive indirect labour and infrastructures, among other things."

Trotman said that in the United States, 35 per cent of U.S. university graduates go into engineering fields, while in Europe, the number is only eight per cent.

"Manufacturing careers are avoided by too many talented people, here in the U.K. and throughout Europe. As a result, the best and the brightest do not aspire to manufacturing careers," he indicated.

Even Britain's ruling Labour Party has shown it is aware of the problem. Recently it even criticised Rover — a British marque of car now owned by BMW — for low productivity.

Some officials, including Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, have pinned a spate of job losses on the problem.

That message was reinforced when Minister for Trade and Industry Peter Mandelson gave the conference a speech about how Britain should celebrate entrepreneurs "as it does its pop stars and footballers."

"We must remove the barriers to enterprise in this country," he said. "Reward risk taking. Encourage innovation and creativity. Seek to emulate the successful formula of the United States' dynamism and enterprise."

Mandelson promised measures to end the "stigma of failure" facing businessmen who have been bankrupted.

"In the U.S. — I saw it for myself when I was there the other week — some of the most successful entrepreneurs are those who have failed once or twice. Banks and society as a whole don't write people off as failures. They see them as people who have learned," he said.

### Muasher expects Hilton Hotel to open in June

\*\* THE GENERAL assemblies of both the Al Dawliya for Hotels & Malls and the United Hotels International Group have agreed to merge and retain the name of Al Dawliya for Hotels & Malls after the merger.

Nabil Muasher, president of the executive committee that oversaw the merger process, estimated the capital of the new company at about JD41 million of which the share of Al Dawliya was JD27.5 million.

Muasher indicated that the merger was necessitated by the difficult present conditions, mainly the high cost of borrowing to finance the compa-

ny's projects. He said that the designs for the Hilton Hotel and for the land on which the hotel will be built are now the property of the new entity.

Muasher expected the hotel to open next June and noted that it will be a 5-star hotel comprising 300 rooms. As the area of the building will be 74,000 square metres, the hotel will also include 45 commercial stores, four cinemas, restaurants and all other facilities of advanced modern hotels. The cost of building the hotel is estimated at JD40 million (Al Aswaq).

### LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

A couple of strong leaders want to "control" your life, and they're fighting for your attention. It's up to you which way you go. Pick the one that's going to lead you where you want to go. Don't be an idiot about this.

### HOROSCOPE

#### FORECAST FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There's a grand time in life signs going on, which always lights you up. In fact, you're lighting others up, too, as we speak. Be cautious about what you say, however, especially with somebody you love. Make sure you don't accidentally hurt someone's feelings by coming on too strong.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may feel like you're under attack. That's just because there's a grand cross in fixed signs going on. Nobody will budge and nothing seems to be getting accomplished. Actually, you're accomplishing something. You're making sure your needs are met, which is very important right now. Stick to your guns.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your work is challenging, but you're doing fast. Some of what you're learning is making things harder. The information is coming in, but it's contradicting what you thought you already had. Keep after it. You're bound to discover the facts; that's more important than somebody else's interpretation of the truth.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) You're decisive and powerful, as well as more affectionate. You might have a strong sense that you don't have enough money. Even though it's not altogether true, why not figure out how to make a little more, instead of spending more? That would calm your fears and give you cash in reserve.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It seems as if somebody's not letting you do what you want. Actually, it could be another side of your own personality slowing you down, and that's not necessarily a bad thing. You can get an awful lot of good advice from your own considerations. You should listen to them and heed what they have to teach you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You're generally good about keeping your agreements, but it looks like something has snuck up on you that you don't want to handle, so it's almost overdue. You could come as close as you ever get to missing a deadline. Better go through your list again and check, just to be on the safe side.

## JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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# Graf roars back with title No. 105

LEIPZIG (AFP) — Steffi Graf put her long injury nightmare firmly behind her on Sunday by winning the \$450,000 WTA Tour event here for the fifth time.

Graf, competing as a non-seed at an event for the first time in 13 years, beat second-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 6-4 to wrap up her 105th career title.

In doing so the 29-year-old German kept up her remarkable record of never even dropping a set against the 31-year-old Tauziat in 20 meetings.

"I like playing Tauziat," admitted Graf. "She has a good serve and comes to the net a lot — but that gives me chances."

Sure enough Tauziat had no answer to Graf's powerful groundstrokes.

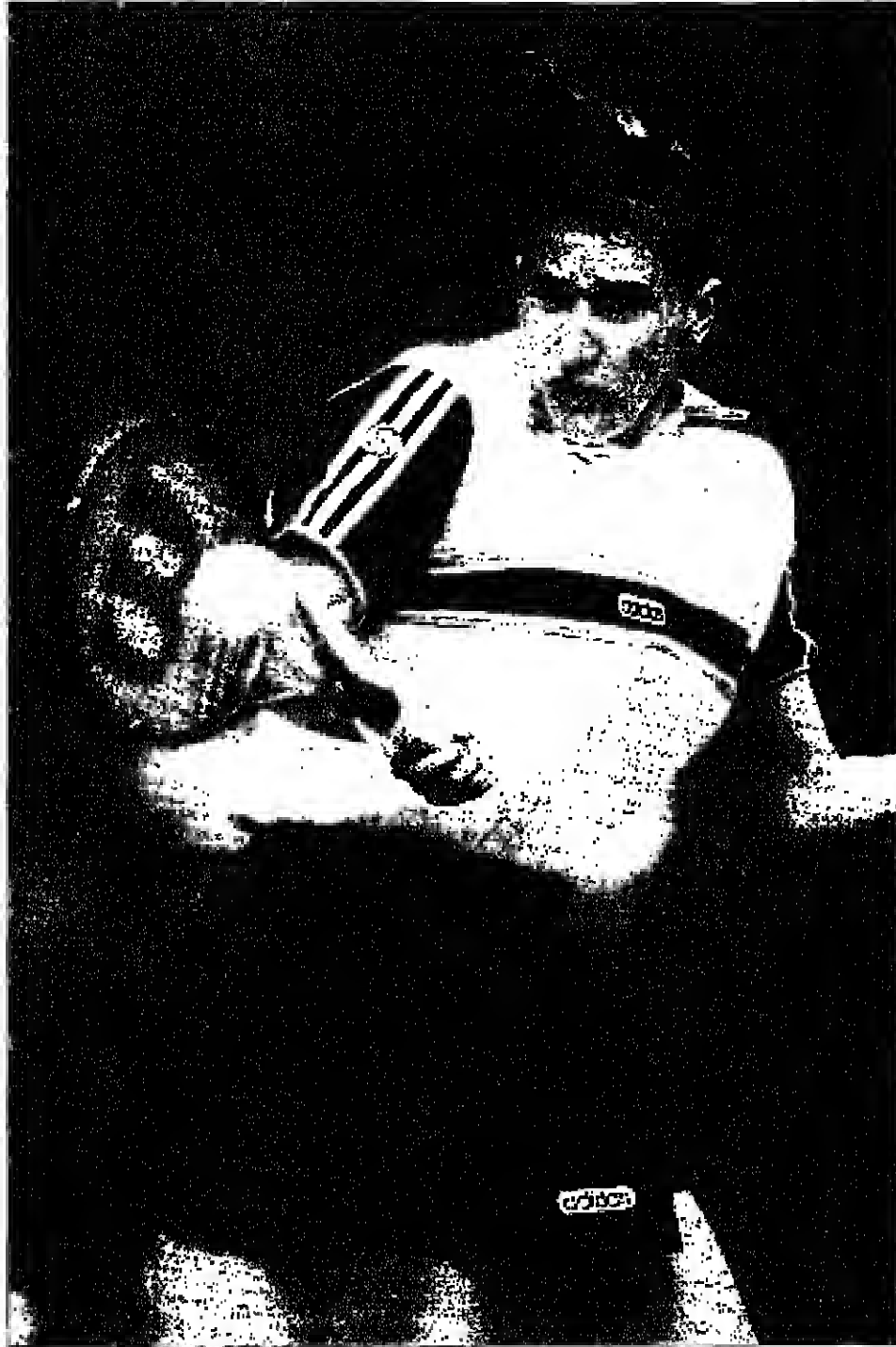
Graf, who spent a record 377 weeks as world number one, should now rise from 22nd to 19th on the WTA computer after her 862nd victory in 977 matches in a career which has brought her 21 Grand Slam singles titles.

Yet two months ago, a wrist problem, compounding a series of other injuries, almost persuaded seven-times Wimbledon champion Graf it was time to call it a day.

But after setting an all-time career-earnings record for a sportswoman of \$20,409,092 after another Leipzig success, her latest title should now enable her to set her sights on a place in the Masters later this month in New York as well as climbing back towards top spot.

This week Graf has garnered another 319 points which ought to be just enough to see her into the Masters even though she has played just 11 tournaments this year.

Before her win, closed out on her first match point after 83 minutes, Graf insisted she would not emulate com-



Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf

patriot Boris Becker by dragging out the end of her career.

"I don't want to finish like Boris," she told the daily newspaper Die Welt. "I would not be happy with my form going up and down,

nor with not being able to give everything."

She added: "I will quit suddenly — let me keep the date a surprise."

After taking her winning run in Leipzig to 25 matches, that date must surely

have receded into the distance by a few months.

"It's been a super week," a beaming Graf acknowledged. An additional bonus was her reclaiming of her status as German No. 1 ahead of Anke Huber.

## Brazil's Sampaio looking for European stint

TOKYO (AFP) — Cesar Sampaio, who scored three goals in Brazil's World Cup finals campaign, is looking for a future in European football after his J-League club folds at the end of this season.

"I don't want to make a decision now. I will talk with the club next month," the 30-year-old midfielder told reporters about his transfer after his Yokohama Flugels beat Fukuoka Avispa 2-1 at home on Saturday.

"I may go back to Brazil but I want to go to Europe. I prefer Europe to the J-League," Sampaio said. "After the World Cup, I received offers from England, Spain, Germany and France."

The J-League executive board approved on October 20 a plan by another Yokohama club, the Marinos, to absorb the financially-troubled Flugels.

Flugels' players and supporters have been protesting against the plan but to no avail.

Before his major contribution to Brazil's run to the World Cup final, where they were beaten by hosts France, Sampaio had kept a low profile in Japan since being sold by Palmeiras to Yokohama in 1995. Up to France '98, he had scored only three goals in 28 internationals since winning his first cap in November 1990. He was recalled thanks to a recommendation by Brazilian captain and fellow J-Leaguer Dunga.



Jockey Gary Stevens takes Silverbulletday to victory during the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies race at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY. (AFP photo)

## Awesome Again stuns favourites in Breeders' Cup

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AFP) — Awesome Again stunned Classic favourites Skip Away and Silver Charm Saturday to give jockey Pat Day an awesome 10th Breeders' Cup race victory.

Awsome Again, a four-year-old bay colt by Deputy Minister, was making just his 12th career start, the second least in the star-studded Classic field.

The 10 entrants had combined to earn just under \$29.5 million in purses, and the purse for the race itself had been boosted from \$4 million to \$5.12 million with the supplemental entries of Gentlemen and Silver Charm.

In front of a Breeders' Cup record crowd of 80,452, Awesome Again roared from behind, taking a short lead in the final 16th of a mile.

Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Silver Charm was hot on his heels and Ireland's Swain was challenging, despite drifting to the far outside.

Day and Awesome Again hit the wire in 2:02 over a fast track in the 1 1/4-mile event, followed by Silver Charm and Swain.

Skip Away, who won the Classic at Hollywood Park in Los Angeles last year, finished sixth, failing in his bid to surpass Cigar in career winnings and become racing's first \$10 million-horse.

Trainer Pat Byrne said he knew the race was in the bag at the eighth pole.

"Awesome Again's got an incredible kick and he kicked in very strong," Byrne said. "I have a lot of confidence in Pat Day."

Day is the leading Breeders' Cup

jockey with 10 wins. Three of those have come in the Classic, one of seven races on the Breeders' Cup programme. Only Jerry Bailey, with four, has more victories in the Breeders' Cup premier event.

The first meeting between Silver Charm and Skip Away became just a footnote as Awesome Again remained undefeated in six 1998 starts, including a win over Silver Charm in the Stephen Foster Handicap.

"I think he's a brilliant racehorse," Byrne added of the Canadian-bred. "He's done everything perfect and I think he should be considered for Horse of the Year."

Gentlemen, whose connections paid \$800,000 to supplement him into the draw, eased up in the stretch and finished last.

Trainer Richard Mandella said

Gentlemen bled and will be retired in the coming week.

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## Bayern race further ahead

COLOGNE (AFP) — Bayern Munich confirmed their status as overwhelming title favourites Saturday with a crushing 3-1 victory over city rivals 1860 Munich.

The match at a packed Olympic Stadium only livened up after the break when Bayern finally began to assert their authority.

Jens Jeremies, formerly of 1860, hit the opener on the hour and within four minutes. Alexander Zickler had made it two and Thomas Linke rounded things off with the third in the 87th minute.

1860's defender Jochen Kientz scored a consolation goal in the 90th minute.

The result left Bayern eight points clear of second-placed 1860, who could be displaced by Bayer Leverkusen if the latter beat Stuttgart on Sunday. Leverkusen would then be six points adrift.

Reigning champions Kaiserslautern, moved up to fourth but with ten points to make up on the leaders, following a 1-0 win at Freiburg.

The top score of the day was at Wolfsburg, where the hosts annihilated Borussia Monchengladbach 7-1.

Monchengladbach are now at their lowest ebb in the Bundesliga.

Saturday's 7-1 loss came after last week's 8-2 home hammering by Leverkusen.

Charles Akonnor, Andrzej Juskowiak and Roy Prager all scored a pair apiece with Bryan O'Neill from Scotland completing the scoresheet.

Schalke chased down a 2-0 deficit in Hamburg and drew 2-2 after late goals by Martin Max and Youri Mulder.

Hansa Rostock and Eintracht Frankfurt also enjoyed a 2-2 draw while Bochum ended Hertha Berlin's recent good run with a 2-0 victory.

The teams' 188th derby was hyped up this week in the German press but 1860 wilted under the pressure.

"10 or 15 years ago (our derbies) were more serious affairs," Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer said, commenting on the 63,000 crowd's good behaviour. "But we have taken the edge off things since we've got to know each other better. And that's flowed on to the fans."

Friedel Rausch saved Borussia Monchengladbach from relegation last season but now his days seem numbered. "I've been a coach for so long now but to suffer two such massive defeats, I never even had that as a player."

Rausch said.

Hertha Berlin's Dariusz Wosz was sent off for tripping against Bochum, the team he captained last season. "I caught Frank Fahrenhorst with my foot but I was changing direction and didn't do it deliberately," Wosz said.

VfL Bochum's new Yugoslav signing Zdravko Dacic, who only arrived on Thursday, sealed their 2-0 win with an 89th minute goal.

Kaiserslautern followed up their Champions League victory over PSV Eindhoven midweek with a 1-0 win in Freiburg. Marian Hristov marked the winner in the 37th minute.

Hansa Rostock's Igor Pamic got an early trip to the showers for elbowing an Eintracht Frankfurt defender. His side was still able to grab the lead though through Timo Lange's goal in the 86th minute. Bernd Schneider then shot a 2-2 equaliser seconds later.

Hamburg looked winners after goals by Bernd Hollerbach and Tony Yeboah on either side of half time but Schalke's striker duo Martin Max and Youri Mulder equalised in the 77th and 80th minutes.



Jens Jeremies (bottom) of FC Bayern Munich collides with Miroslav Stevic of TSV 1860 Munich as they fight for the ball during their German Bundesliga match in Munich (AFP photo)

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA 1'	PHILADELPHIA 2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yanes Theatre
	Marlon Brando & Val Kilmer.. in <b>THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Mickey Rourke & Alan Bates .. in <b>A PRAYER FOR THE DYING</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in <b>SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" <b>RASPUTIN</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  CONCORD "2" <b>9 1/2 WEEKS</b> Shows: 3:30, 5:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in <b>SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Harrison Ford .. in <b>SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play

Listings for films and showing times as recieved by cinemas and their advertising agencies.

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Tommi Makinen of Finland powers through a water obstacle, during the final stage of Rally Australia at the Bunnings camp, east of Perth. Makinen won the rally with a time of 3:52:48.7, with Carlos Sainz of Spain in second place, and Didier Auriol of France in third place (AFP Photo)

## Makinen wins Rally Australia, Sainz cries foul

PERTH (AFP) — Flying Finn Tommi Makinen dramatically won Rally Australia here Sunday, keeping alive his hopes of clinching a record third successive champion World Rally Driver crown.

Makinen, 34, finished the four-day event 16.5 seconds ahead of Spain's Carlos Sainz, but only after stewards imposed a one-minute penalty on Sainz for allegedly "jumping" the start of that day's final stage.

"It's a scandal," declared Sainz, whose defeat relegates him from leadership in the world champion standings to second place.

Makinen, in a Mitsubishi Lancer, began this rally trailing Sainz by two points, but now leads in the charge for the title with 58 — two more than the Spaniard, in a Toyota Corolla, who was world champion in 1990 and 1992.

The final rally in the 13-event program, the RAC Rally in Wales, starting November 21, now looms as a fierce

confrontation between Makinen and Sainz, the only drivers left in contention for the sport's top prize.

Makinen's unexpected one-minute bonus gave him renewed incentive as he moved up from sixth to second at the start of the final day.

Trailing Sainz by 22.8sec, the Finn drove superbly to finish with a comfortable margin.

Frenchman Didier Auriol, driving a Toyota Corolla, dropped from second to third place after the adjustment to Makinen's time, and held that position, 8.5sec further back.

The one-minute penalty was imposed on Makinen when he was found "jumped" the start of the final stage that day, the special Langley Park leg in the heart of Perth city. The Mitsubishi team protested and stewards ruled Sunday the penalty should be removed on a technicality. A furious Sainz told a television channel covering the event: "It's a scandal. It's quite clear what happened last night. A

crowd of 20,000 people (at Langley Park) and the TV cameras all saw it, but there is no penalty applied."

"In Formula One, if you jump the start, you get a stop/go penalty. I feel sorry for Tommi, but it is quite clear what happened and something should have been done about it," Sainz said.

Makinen said: "I don't believe I jumped the start, but I got the penalty."

Mitsubishi team manager Phil Short said: "The start signal system is not in the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) regulations. That is why we protested. The stewards accepted this."

In their decision, stewards said: "We accept that neither the FIA International Sporting Code, the general prescriptions for the World Rally Championship, or the event supplementary regulations provide for evidence presented to have proved conclusively the 'jump start' regulations for the event were breached."

## Rusedski beats Sampras for Paris Indoor title

PARIS (AFP) — Britain's Greg Rusedski won the men's singles title at the Paris Indoor Open here on Sunday when he dethroned World No. 1 Pete Sampras by scoring a tremendous 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

The match lasted just 1hr 44min.

It was Rusedski's seventh career title and his first win against Sampras in seven meetings.

The victory kept alive the British number-two's hopes of qualifying for the eight-player ATP Championships in Hanover later this month, putting him ahead of Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the race to qualify for one of the three remaining berths.

The other contenders to play in the final event of the season are Karol Kucera of Slovakia and Rusedski's Davis Cup team-mate Tim Henman.

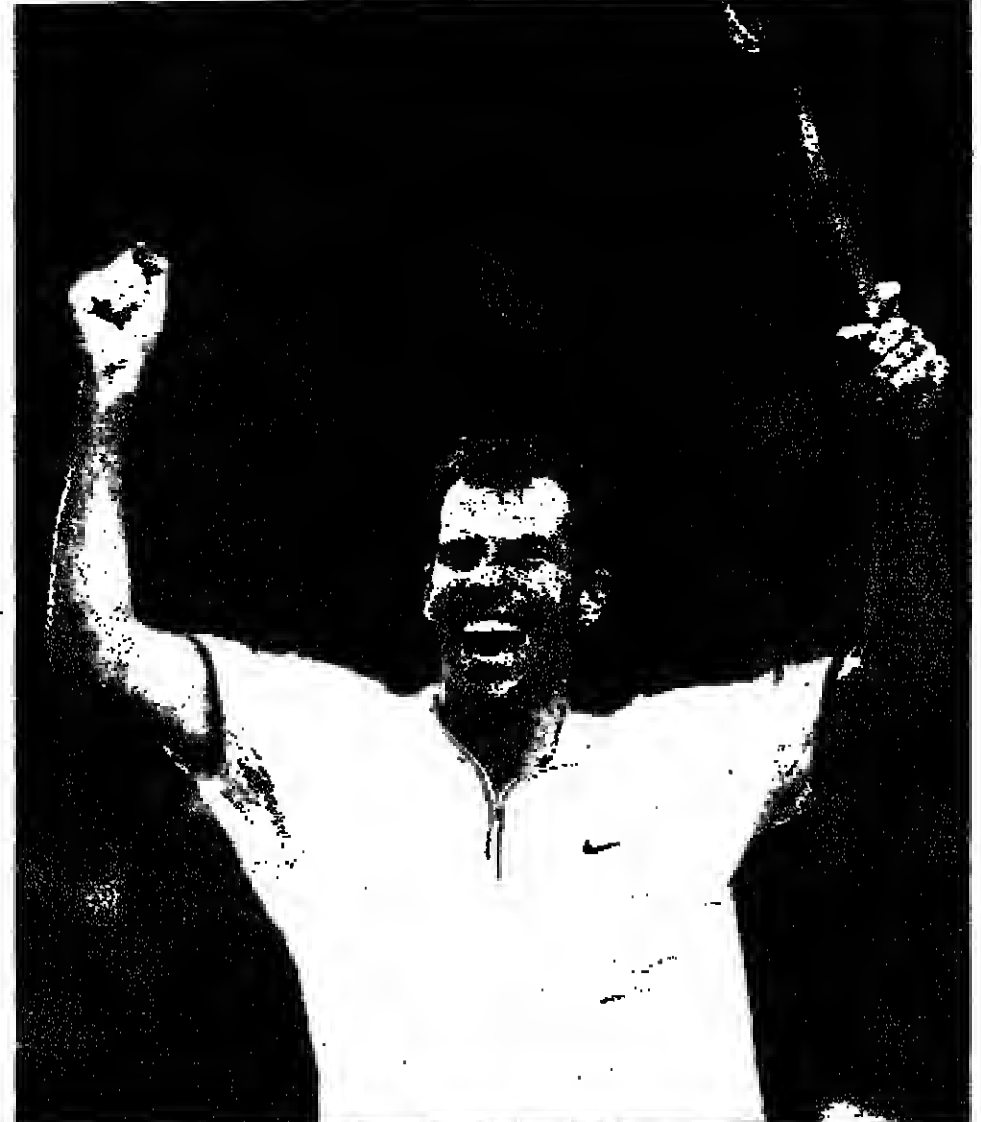
Sampras, whose bid to end the season as the world's number-one for a record sixth season is under threat from Marcelo Rios of Chile, had won the event in 1995 and 1997.

By reaching the Paris final and with just one week of tournaments left (Stockholm, Santiago and Moscow) before the ATP Championships — Sampras is sure of staying on top of the rankings for another week when they are published on Monday.

He has also extended the number of weeks he has been ranked number-one to 245 — third in the all-time lists behind Ivan Lendl (270) and Jimmy Connors (268).

Rusedski's season was disrupted by a three-month lay-off because of ankle and wrist injuries.

Rusedski, who finally fired down 18 aces, had trouble with his first serves throughout the first set. But when Sampras lost a careless ninth game after double-faulting twice, he seized his chance and brought the excited crowd of over 12,000 spectators to their feet with a magnificent running forehand



Briton Greg Rusedski celebrates after defeating title holder Pete Sampras of the U.S. in the final of the 13th Paris Indoor Tennis Open, Sunday at the Paris-Bercy Sports Palace. Rusedski won 6-4, 7-6, 6-3 (AFP photo)

which left Sampras lunging into space.

Having pocketed the first set in just 32 minutes, the 25-year-old British player came under tremendous pressure in the second.

He trailed 0-40 in his first service game but showed tremendous determination, recovering to save four break points.

Sampras' next bid to capture his opponent's serve two games later was more successful — Rusedski netting a forehand volley.

But incredibly the defending champion, serving to level at 5-3, failed to press

home the advantage. He hit two more double-faults, played a lazy forehand wide and dropped his serve to bring Rusedski surging back.

The set went into a tie-break and it was Sampras' turn to feel the pressure. A netted backhand and a drop shot running inches wide set up the British player to serve for a two-set lead. He made

no mistakes.

Sampras looked visibly shaken at the start of the third set and the worst fears of his supporters were confirmed when he dropped his opening service game.

Rusedski had begun to serve bullets and he was finding space into which he was threatening his groundstrokes.

There was no way back for the American.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Becker gives Stockholm a miss

MUNICH (AFP) — German veteran Boris Becker brought the curtain down on his season prematurely on Sunday by revealing he would not play this week's \$825,000 event in Stockholm. Becker had a wildcard for the tournament, which he won in 1988, 1990, 1991 and 1994. Fellow German Nicolas Pietrangeli will also miss the event.

#### Corretja faces Kafelnikov in Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — Spain's Alex Corretja, ranked sixth in the world tennis rankings, will take top seed for the \$1.125-million Kremlin Cup ATP tour event beginning here on Monday. Local favourite Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who won the event last year, is seeded second. The Russian needs a good showing to help him qualify for the eight-man ATP Tour World Championships in Hanover, Germany, later this month. Switzerland's Marc Rosset, Croatian Goran Ivanisevic and Russian Andrei Cherkasov, three previous winners, also take part.

#### Charbonnier to miss season

GLASGOW (R) — Rangers' French international goalkeeper Lionel Charbonnier will miss the remainder of the season because of a knee injury sustained in his club's UEFA Cup triumph. Tests have revealed Charbonnier tore a cruciate ligament when his studs caught in the turf during the second round triumph over Bayer Leverkusen on Thursday. Charbonnier, who joined Rangers from French club Auxerre for £1.2 million (\$2 million) in July, will undergo surgery and then face eight months on the sidelines.

#### Italy plays down Davis Cup chance

BARI (R) — Italy's Davis Cup captain believes his team has only a "45 percent" chance of winning next month's final against defending champions Sweden. "I know we're not favourites, but we're not too out of the running either," Adriano Panatta told reporters on Saturday. Panatta may have to resign himself to the loss of Andrea Gaudenzi who is still recovering from injury. "He's better but we've got to keep an eye on him. We'll have to see how things go," Panatta said.

#### I won't do a Becker — Graf

BONN (AFP) — Germany's former World No. 1 tennis star Steffi Graf said in remarks published Sunday that she would not emulate Boris Becker by dragging out the end of her career. "I don't want to finish like Boris," she told the daily newspaper Die Welt. "I would not be happy with my form going up and down, nor with not being able to give everything." The 29-year-old added: "I will quit suddenly — let me keep the date a surprise." Graf, who has won more than 20 million dollars during her career but who has been plagued by injuries in recent seasons, added she still enjoyed playing tennis "even if I don't show it."

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NORTH  
♠ A 10 7  
♥ J 8 8  
♦ J 5  
♣ A K Q 3  
WEST  
♠ 5  
♥ 7 6 5 2  
♦ Q 10 4 2  
♣ 10 8 6 5  
EAST  
♠ K 8 3  
♥ K 10 9 4  
♦ A K 2 7 6  
♣ 2  
SOUTH  
♠ Q J 9 8 4 2  
♥ A Q  
♦ 9 6  
♣ J 7 4

The bidding:  
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass 2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

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In the modern style South's bid of one spade over the takeout double is a one-round force, just as if East had passed rather than doubled. North's raise to two spades with a

sound opening, a ruffing value and good three-card support was eminently correct, as was South's continuation to game. West led a low diamond. East won with the king and shifted to the two of clubs. At this point declarer should know the whole hand. For the vulnerable takeout double, East must hold the major-suit kings and a K of diamonds, and the two of clubs is surely a singleton. So East rates to have the king of spades guarded twice.

Since taking the marked heart finesse is futile, declarer won the club in hand and played the ace of spades and another. East shot up with the king, underled the ace of diamonds to get partner in with the queen, and the club return netted the defense a ruff for a one-trick set.

That could have been avoided quite easily. Declarer should have won the club in dummy at trick two and taken the marked heart finesse. When the queen holds, declarer cashes the ace of hearts, gets back to the table with the ace of spades and leads the jack of hearts. When East covers with the king, declarer discards the diamond loser from hand. That shatters the enemy communications, and there is no way for West to obtain a ruff. Declarer loses only one trick in each suit except clubs!

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## No Kurdish state intended, Iraqi Kurds reassure Ankara

ANKARA (AFP) — Iraqi Kurdish leaders on Sunday reassured Turkey that a recent peace deal between their rival groups is not aimed at establishing a Kurdish state in northern Iraq.

"It is not our intention to establish an independent Kurdish state," a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said after a meeting here between PUK leader Jalal Talabani and Massud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Turkey has been wary of a U.S.-sponsored agreement signed in Washington in September, in which the KDP and the PUK agreed to set up a transitional power-sharing government in northern Iraq to pave the way for elections for a regional assembly in summer 1999.

Ankara sees the Washington agreement as a potential step towards the establishment of an independent Kurdish state in northern Iraq.

Turkey fears that such a Kurdish entity in northern Iraq, which has been outside Baghdad's control since shortly after the 1991 Gulf war, will spawn support for the longstanding rebellion of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in southeastern Turkey.

"The Washington agreement rules out PKK camps in the region," Bahram Salih, representative of the PUK in Washington, stressed.

Salih said the Washington agreement was good news not only for the Iraqi Kurds, but for the neighbouring

## Turkish incursion into northern Iraq

DIYARBAKIR (AFP) — Turkish troops have launched a massive incursion into northern Iraq to flush out some 400 Kurdish rebels thought to have fled there from Syria last month, Turkish newspapers reported Sunday.

"25,000 soldiers have penetrated 20 to 30 kilometres into northern Iraq," the Hurriyet newspaper reported.

It added that Turkish fighter jets and helicopters were bombing positions of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) there. The Milliyet newspaper carried a similar report.

Sunday's newspaper reports were denied by authorities in the region.

"There is no operation," a spokesman for the governor of the region in southeastern Turkey said.

The General Staff in Ankara also said it had "no information" about such an incursion.

Several hundred PKK fighters were last month reported to have sought refuge in northern Iraq after Syria bowed to Turkish pressure and agreed to expel all PKK rebels from its territory.

Turkish troops have launched several cross-border operations in the past to pursue PKK units and cut off rebel supply lines.

The PKK has been waging an armed rebellion against Ankara since 1984.

countries too.

"Turkey is a strong neighbour, we cannot exclude it, and the development of our relations is beneficial to both sides."

"I have come to Ankara to develop our relations and to overcome some misunderstandings," he said.

Both groups said the Ankara meeting had gone well.

"The talks were constructive and positive," a KDP spokesman said.

"The implementation of the Washington agreement has been going very well," Talabani told reporters.

"We remain loyal to the Ankara process," he said

referring to an effort launched in 1996 by Ankara, London and Washington to broker a lasting peace between the KDP and the PUK.

Clashes between the KDP and PUK have left more than 3,000 people dead since 1994, when a joint administration collapsed following a dispute over the sharing of customs duties levied at the Turkish border, the region's principal source of revenue.

Barzani earlier this week attempted to allay Turkish fears in talks with government officials. Talabani is due to meet with Turkish officials on Monday or Tuesday.



GREENPEACE PROTEST: Six Greenpeace activists prepare their gear prior to climbing the peak of the Austrian mountain 'Piz Buin,' on Sunday. Greenpeace plans to stay at the top of the 3,312-metre-high mountain for a week to protest against the slow progress of key issues at the U.N. climate talks in Buenos Aires (Reuters photo)

## Iran denies role in Jerusalem bombing

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran denied on Sunday it had any role in the suicide bombing in Jerusalem two days ago, saying such attacks were rooted in the "suppression" of the rights of Palestinian people.

Foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said Iran had been accused by "Zionist circles" and the Palestinian National Authority of having a hand in Friday's car-bomb blast in a crowded market in west Jerusalem that killed the two attackers and wounded 24 Israelis.

The Palestinian group Islamic Jihad, which is opposed to the peace process with Israel, has claimed responsibility for the bombing.

"Such incidents have roots in the internal affairs of occupied Palestine and results from the suppression of the rights of the Palestinian nation,"

Mohammadi said, quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

"Iran has no role in this and linking it to foreign countries is a malicious effort to divert public opinion from problems in the occupied territories," Mohammadi charged.

The Palestinian cabinet accused "foreign elements" of masterminding the attack, but did not mention Iran. But following a suicide bombing in the Gaza Strip last month which killed an Israeli soldier and prompted a Palestinian police crackdown on Islamists, the PNA accused Tehran of sponsoring a hardline faction within the largest militant group Hamas.

It also accused Iran of being behind an unprecedented threat of violence against the PNA which was sent to news organisations in the name of Hamas's armed wing after the crack-

down. Fledgling relations between Iran and the PNA were dealt a sharp blow last month after Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei attacked Arafat as a "traitor and a lackey of the Zionists" for signing the Wye River peace accord with Israel.

But Palestinian Authority Secretary-General Tayeb Abdul Rahim hit back, accusing Khamenei of being the leader of the "extremist faction in Iran which wants to aggravate the situation in the Palestinian territories to spark a civil war."

"The Palestinian Authority is utterly convinced that the hardliners in Iran have succeeded in infiltrating certain Palestinian factions which worked with Iran in the past," Abdul Rahim said.

"Certain elements dependent on the hardliners in Iran are carrying out its

orders by intensifying military operations to sabotage the [Wye River] agreement," he said.

Iran says it supports militant Palestinian groups politically and morally, but denies providing material assistance.

Meanwhile, IRNA reported that a memorial service will be held at Tehran's Amir-Kabir university on Tuesday to mark the third anniversary of the assassination of Fathi Shiqqi, former leader of the Islamic Jihad.

Several Iranian, Lebanese and Syrian political figures will attend the ceremonies organised by Islamist student activists and university officials.

Shakaki was murdered by suspected Israeli agents in Malta in October 1995. A street in Tehran has been named after Shakaki and his portrait has been painted on a wall.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Yemen, S. Arabia hold border talks

SANAA (AFP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Sunday discussed with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz by telephone the demarcation of his country's border with the kingdom. Yemeni radio said. Saudi Arabia and Yemen have been negotiating the demarcation of both their territorial and maritime borders since 1995. Prince Abdullah, in remarks published by a Saudi newspaper on Saturday, said he did not oppose arbitration to resolve the two countries' border disputes. In July, Saudi and Yemeni forces clashed on the disputed Red Sea island of Al Duwayyina. After the clash, in which three Yemeni soldiers were killed, Saudi Arabia and Yemen signed an agreement to avoid recourse to force to resolve their territorial disputes.

#### Palestinian donor nations to meet

CAIRO (AFP) — Nations that provide financial aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will meet in Washington next month, Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath said Sunday. The meeting was initially planned for Vienna but would now take place in Washington on Dec. 4 at the request of the United States following the signing there of the Wye River accord, he said, according to Egypt's MENA news agency. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat announced in Vienna the day after signing the accord on Oct. 23 that European Union (EU) donor countries would meet in late November or early December. The EU provides 60 per cent of international aid to the Palestinians. In August the EU and other major donors — the World Bank, the United States, Japan and Norway — criticised the PNA for failing to establish a clear plan for using the hundreds of millions of dollars in aid it receives each year.

#### U.S. to deploy Patriots in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The United States has decided to deploy Patriot anti-missile missiles in Israel to protect the Jewish state from retaliation by Iraq in the event of a U.S.-led military strike, the Hebrew daily Maariv reported Sunday. It will take the United States 48 hours to transfer the Patriots from Europe, the paper said, without disclosing further details. During the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel, leaving one dead and hundreds of wounded. Washington deployed Patriot missiles at the time but, according to Israeli press reports, the missiles failed to intercept a single incoming Iraqi Scud and caused more damage themselves. Defence analysts say Washington has since improved the missiles' effectiveness in the face of competition from Russia's rival S-300 missile.

#### Philippines detains 2 Turks in hypnosis scam

LUCENA (AFP) — Two Turkish nationals have been arrested in the Philippines for allegedly using hypnosis to swindle currency exchange operators, police said Sunday. Lucena city police Superintendent Albert Garcia said Lemon Ercan, 40, and Nour Gole, 26, both of Istanbul, had allegedly hypnotised operators of currency exchange shops into giving them money for the past month. It was not clear how the duo operated, and all the victims could say was that they had been duped into giving the suspects money through hypnosis, Garcia said. Confiscated from the two men were 22 100-dollar bills and some 31,000 pesos (\$795), police said.

#### 8 drug traffickers sentenced to death in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Eight men convicted of trafficking in drugs have been sentenced to be hanged by a court in western Iran, a newspaper reported Saturday. A revolutionary court in Sanandaj, the main town in Kurdistan province, had accused the eight leaders of a 22-member gang of smuggling morphine, heroin and opium into the country. Kayhan daily said, without giving a date. One other member of the gang was sentenced to life in prison, another to 15 years in jail and two others, including a woman, to five years in jail each.

## Yemeni kills six with hand grenade

SANAA (AP) — A man killed six people and injured his mother when he threw a hand grenade into a neighbour's house in southern Yemen, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The man's mother was visiting the home of her neighbour, Hadi Nasr Nasser, when her son threw a hand grenade into an open window, the Al Ayam newspaper reported. It did not say whether he knew his mother was in the house at the time.

The man, who was not identified, was upset because of a land dispute with Nasser, the paper reported.

Police are searching for the man, who fled after the incident in the southern province of Lahaj, the newspaper reported. It did not give other details.

Fighting among rival clans, mostly over territorial claims, is common in Yemen, an impoverished and largely tribal country of about 17 million people in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula.

Weapons, including hand grenades, heavy machine guns, rocket launchers and artillery, are not difficult to buy in Yemen.

## Sudanese opponents criticise multiparty law

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Non-partisan Sudanese opponents in exile have criticised Sudan's government for proposed political legislation Khartoum says would allow the formation of political parties in Sudan, the SUNA news agency said.

Abdul Aziz Shiddu, the chairman of a parliamentary ad hoc committee tasked with submitting a report on the legislation to parliament, said he received a letter from Sudan's former President Gaafar Nimeiri in which the ousted dictator, who is exiled in Egypt, praised the legislation as "an important step for establishing a multiparty system in Sudan."

However, Nimeiri criticised a provision permitting at least 100 eligible voters to set up a political party, saying this number should be increased and should represent all states to guarantee the national nature of the party.

He also noted that a political organisations' registrar appointed by the head of state should be subject to the will of that head of state.

Shiddu said he also received a letter from Ahmad Ibrahim Diraji, a self-proclaimed opponent not linked to any banned political party, in which Diraji underlined the need for holding a constitu-

tional conference to discuss peace and minorities issues in Sudan.

Shiddu had invited all opponents inside and outside Sudan to express their viewpoints on the legislation, noting that opponents in exile would be guaranteed safe haven in Sudan for such talks.

He has also appealed to opponents in Sudan to take part in public symposiums on the topic.

Nimeiri and Diraji were the only ones to respond from abroad, while domestic opponents have boycotted the declared symposiums. Both sides of the opposition insist on convening a constitutional conference by a transitional national government.

Shiddu quoted Diraji as saying such a conference would discuss the question of peace in Sudan and the grievances of ethnic minorities in Sudan.

Diraji briefly served as governor for Darfur region in west Sudan during Nimeiri's regime in the 1970s, and has since then gone into self-imposed exile, mostly in London.

He declared his opposition to Nimeiri and the subsequent regimes, calling for equal treatment of the Darfur people who he claims are deprived of equal opportunities with central and northern Sudan.

## Iran to take U.S. to court over radio service

TEHRAN (AFP) — Tehran will protest to the International Court of Justice at the Hague over controversial new U.S.-funded radio broadcasts to Iran launched last month, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi said Sunday.

Iran will make formal complaints to "international bodies including the international court at the Hague," he told the Abar newspaper.

"We have already taken measures on the issue of the \$20 million the United States has set aside to combat the Islamic republic, lodging a formal complaint with international judicial authorities," he said.

The Farsi language service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), whose programmes are produced at the radio's studios in Prague, "was set up to interfere in Iran's internal affairs," Kharazi said.

"The Czech Republic has put its territory at the disposal of the Americans, and we shall take a firm stance against any other state that helps the United States," he warned.

Iran recalled its ambas-

sador from Prague last Tuesday and froze further economic cooperation, in protest at the Czech government's agreement to the use of studios in Prague.

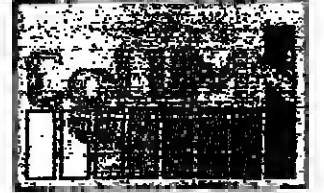
Tehran claims the broadcasts are part of U.S. efforts to undermine the Islamic Republic, including economic sanctions and efforts to ensure Iran does not become a principal route for the export of Central Asian and Caspian oil to world markets.

Iran-U.S. relations have been hostile since the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran after the 1979 revolution that ended the Western-backed monarchy.

Washington has accused Tehran of supporting international terrorism and undermining the Middle East peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright offered Tehran a "road map for normalisation" earlier this year following the 1997 election of moderate President Mohammad Khatami.

But Tehran has accused the United States of maintaining hostile policies despite "a change in tone."



Politician in soup over peacock dinner

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The speaker of India's lower house of parliament reportedly attended a dinner at which the menu included protected species including peacock, a newspaper said Sunday. Wild boar and spotted deer were also among the delicacies served by a party colleague in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, The Indian Express reported. Andhra Pradesh Forest Minister K.E. Prabhakar warned of "strict action" against the guilty "however powerful they may be." The Express said the politician who served the dinner at his village last month had gone underground to escape arrest along with his cooks and some relatives.

#### Patriarch apologises to saint

AEGINA (AP) — A Christian Orthodox saint praised for honesty and charity received a posthumous apology Sunday for his mistreatment at the hands of malicious rivals. Patriarch Peter VII of Alexandria said top clergymen felt it was time to formally clear the reputation of Saint Nectarios 78 years after his death on Aegina, an island about 20 kilometres southwest of Athens. Nectarios was elected to the senior church rank of metropolitan bishop of a Greek community in Egypt in 1889 only to be expelled the following year. It is believed that jealous clergymen falsely accused him of plotting to oust the patriarch and seek the position for himself.

#### Harrison Ford 'sexiest man alive'

NEW YORK (AFP) — Rugged Harrison Ford has been named the "sexiest man alive" by People magazine because of his "green-grey eyes, the sleep-on hair [and] the endearing scar on the chin." Ford, 56, who became a sex symbol with a series of films and has a new movie "Six Days, Seven Nights" out, beat teenaged heartthrobs Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon for the "sexiest" title. "Ford is one intriguing and enduringly sexy package," gushed People. But Ford feels differently and lives a quiet life with his wife, Melissa Mathison, and their children.

#### De Klerk marries Greek-born sweetheart

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Six days after divorcing his wife of 38 years, former President F.W. de Klerk, 62, Saturday married his Greek-born sweetheart, a Johannesburg newspaper reported. De Klerk, who presided over the end of apartheid and shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela, wed Elita Georgiades in a private Greek Orthodox ceremony near Hermanus on the south coast, according to an early edition of the Sunday Times. De Klerk, 62, confirmed his marriage to Georgiades, 46, the newspaper said.

#### Van Damme case still pending

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jurors will decide whether Jean-Claude Van Damme should hand over \$1 million to a former trainer who says he was never paid for a script he helped write with the action movie star. Late Friday, the Los Angeles County Superior Court jurors received the case of Frank Dux vs. Van Damme. The jury is scheduled to resume deliberations Monday. Dux claims in the breach of contract lawsuit that "The Quest," a 1991 movie that Van Damme starred in and directed, was similar to the manuscript "Enter the New Dragon: The Kung-Fu" which they both wrote.

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